

UN666435L

Title: UNSC: Syria: Australian Article 51 notification
MRN: UN666435L 09/09/2015 06:24:28 PM EDT
To: Canberra
Cc: PP : Geneva UN, Middle East Posts, Ottawa, UNSC Posts, Vienna UN, Wellington
Ministers: Prime Minister
From: UN New York
From File: UN15/132
EDRMS Files:
References: CE132342H
The cable has the following attachment/s -
090915 Australia letter of 9 September.pdf
Response: **Priority, Information Only**

~~UNCLASSIFIED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Summary

Further to reftel and emails (FMO/INT/UNNY), HOM has written to the UN Security Council to provide advice of the Government's decision to extend Australia's military air operations against Daesh in Syria. The letter (attached) has been circulated as an official document of the Security Council (S/2015/693).

text ends

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The President of the Security Council presents his compliments to the members of the Council and has the honour to transmit herewith, for their information, a copy of a **letter dated 9 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations** addressed to the President of the Security Council.

This letter will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2015/693.

9 September 2015



THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF AUSTRALIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

9 September 2015

H.E. Mr Vitaly Churkin
President of the United Nations Security Council
United Nations Secretariat Building
New York 10017

Dear Mr President

I am writing in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations to report to the Security Council that Australia is taking measures against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Syria in support of the collective self-defence of Iraq as part of international efforts led by the United States.

On 20 September 2014, the Government of Iraq wrote to inform the Security Council that ISIL had established safe havens outside Iraq's borders in Syria and that ISIL attacks emanating from these positions posed a direct threat to the security of the Iraqi people and territory (S/2014/691, annex). The Government of Iraq requested that the United States lead international efforts to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds in Syria in order to end the constant attacks on Iraq, to protect Iraqi citizens, and ultimately to enable Iraqi forces to regain control of Iraq's borders.

This threat to Iraq, its territorial integrity and its citizens persists. Attacks by ISIL in Iraq from safe havens in Syria continue.

Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations recognises the inherent right of States to act in individual or collective self defence where an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations. States must be able to act in self-defence when the Government of the State where the threat is located is unwilling or unable to prevent attacks originating from its territory. The Government of Syria has, by its failure to constrain attacks upon Iraqi territory originating from ISIL bases within Syria, demonstrated that it is unwilling or unable to prevent those attacks.

In response to the request for assistance by the Government of Iraq, Australia is therefore undertaking necessary and proportionate military operations against ISIL in Syria in the exercise of the collective self-defence of Iraq.

These operations are not directed against Syria or the Syrian people, nor do they entail support for the Syrian regime. When undertaking such military operations, Australia will abide by its obligations under international law.

I request that you circulate the text of the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gillian Bird". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Gillian Bird

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, 9 September 2015 10:35 PM
To: Bird, Gillian
Cc: Hansen, Murray; s 22(1)(a)(ii) Innes-Brown, Marc; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Article 51 letter - Syria [SEC UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Gillian

Please find attached the letter the Minister has approved.

Warm regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Suite M1-27

Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

T: (+61) 02 62775 22(1)(a)(ii)

|W: www.foreignminister.gov.au

<<Article 51 draft for consideration - 080915.docx>>

Dear President

I am writing in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations to report to the Security Council that Australia is taking measures against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Syria in support of the collective self-defence of Iraq as part of international efforts led by the United States.

On 20 September 2014, the Government of Iraq wrote to inform the Security Council that ISIL had established safe havens outside Iraq's borders in Syria and that ISIL attacks emanating from these positions posed a direct threat to the security of the Iraqi people and territory (S/2014/691, annex). The Government of Iraq requested that the United States lead international efforts to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds in Syria in order to end the constant attacks on Iraq, to protect Iraqi citizens, and ultimately to enable Iraqi forces to regain control of Iraq's borders.

This threat to Iraq, its territorial integrity and its citizens persists. Attacks by ISIL in Iraq from safe havens in Syria continue.

Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations recognises the inherent right of States to act in individual or collective self defence where an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations. States must be able to act in self-defence when the Government of the State where the threat is located is unwilling or unable to prevent attacks originating from its territory. The Government of Syria has, by its failure to constrain attacks upon Iraqi territory originating from ISIL bases within Syria, demonstrated that it is unwilling or unable to prevent those attacks.

In response to the request for assistance by the Government of Iraq, Australia is therefore undertaking necessary and proportionate military operations against ISIL in Syria in the exercise of the collective self-defence of Iraq.

These operations are not directed against Syria or the Syrian people, nor do they entail support for the Syrian regime. When undertaking such military operations, Australia will abide by its obligations under international law.

I request that you circulate the text of the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gillian Bird

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations

F-11, S-19

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
TRADE**

I-3

Iraq - Political Situation: Iraq/Syria - Combating Daesh

Possible Question

What is the Government's response to Daesh in Iraq and Syria?

Talking Points

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- The Government is considering the US request to extend our air operations to target Daesh in Syria
 - we all know Daesh does not respect borders and threatens Iraq's and international security from its Syria safe havens
 - the Iraqi Government has cited the threat from across its borders and requested international efforts to strike Daesh sites and military strongholds
 - there is a clear legal basis for striking Daesh targets in Syria: the collective self-defence of Iraq
 - our allies and partners have cited this legal basis for their operations in Syria.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Defence Minister reportedly told the Weekend Australian that he would recommend to Cabinet this week that the ADF's mission be extended from Iraq to eastern Syria, in response to the US request.

The Government is in receipt of legal advice in relation to the use of force in Syria against Daesh. The legal justification for such force would be the collective self-defence of Iraq against Daesh on the basis that Syria was unable to prevent ongoing armed attacks by Daesh against Iraq. s 42(1)

Iraqi Foreign Minister al-Ja'afari wrote to the UN Security Council on 20 September 2014, noting ISIL had established "a safe haven outside Iraq's borders that is a direct threat to the security of our people and territory" providing ISIL with the ability to "train for, plan, finance and carry out terrorist operations across our borders". The letter notes that Iraq had requested the US to "lead international efforts to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds" in order "to end the constant threat to Iraq". The US, the UK and Canada all cited the justification of collective self-defence of Iraq in letters to the Security Council in relation to action in Syria. The US cited the additional justification of individual self defence.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared By:
s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Assisant Director

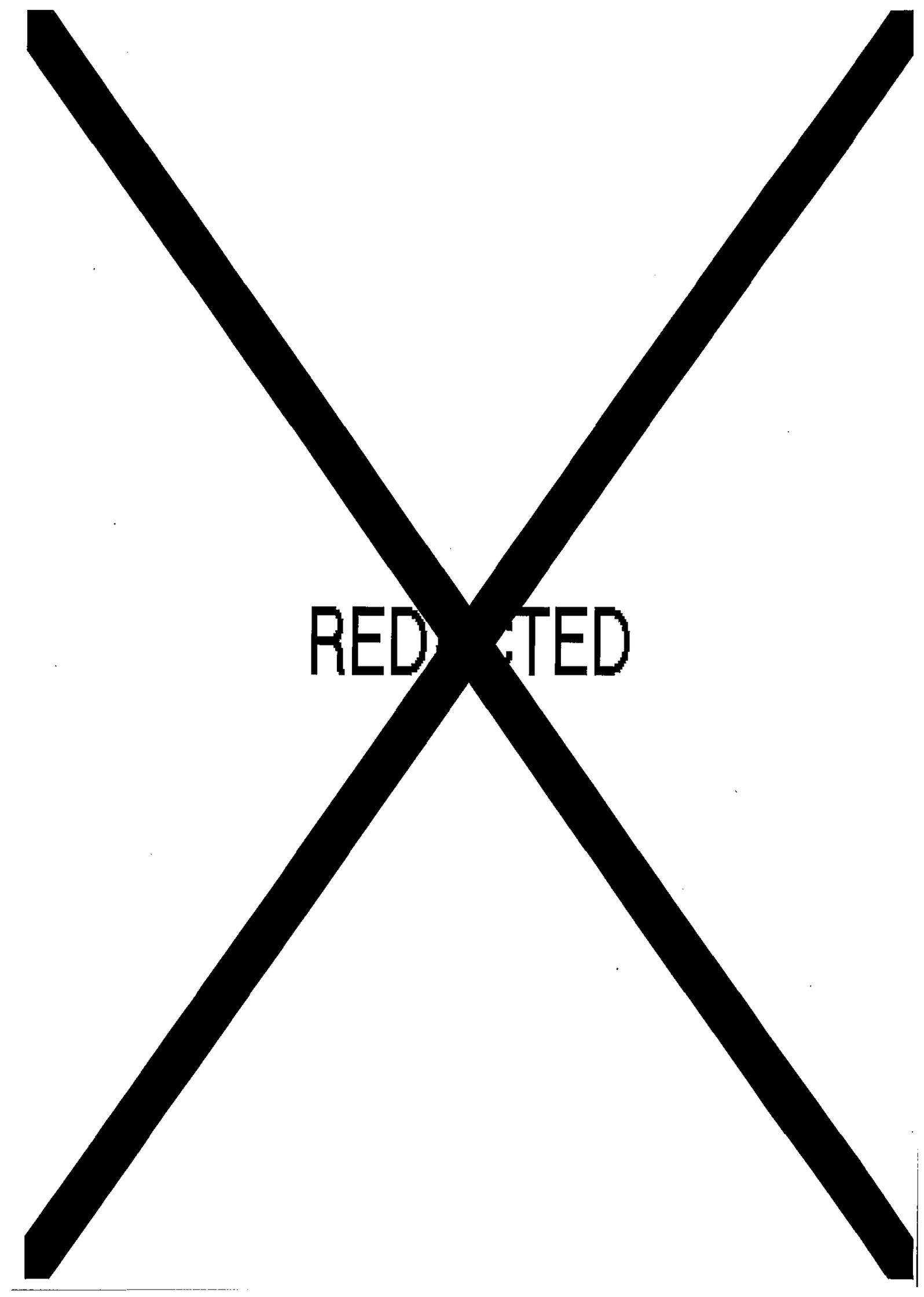
Cleared By:
Greg Ralph
Assistant Secretary

MAD/MEB/ITF
Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Edit Date: 9 September 2015 09:59:30 AM

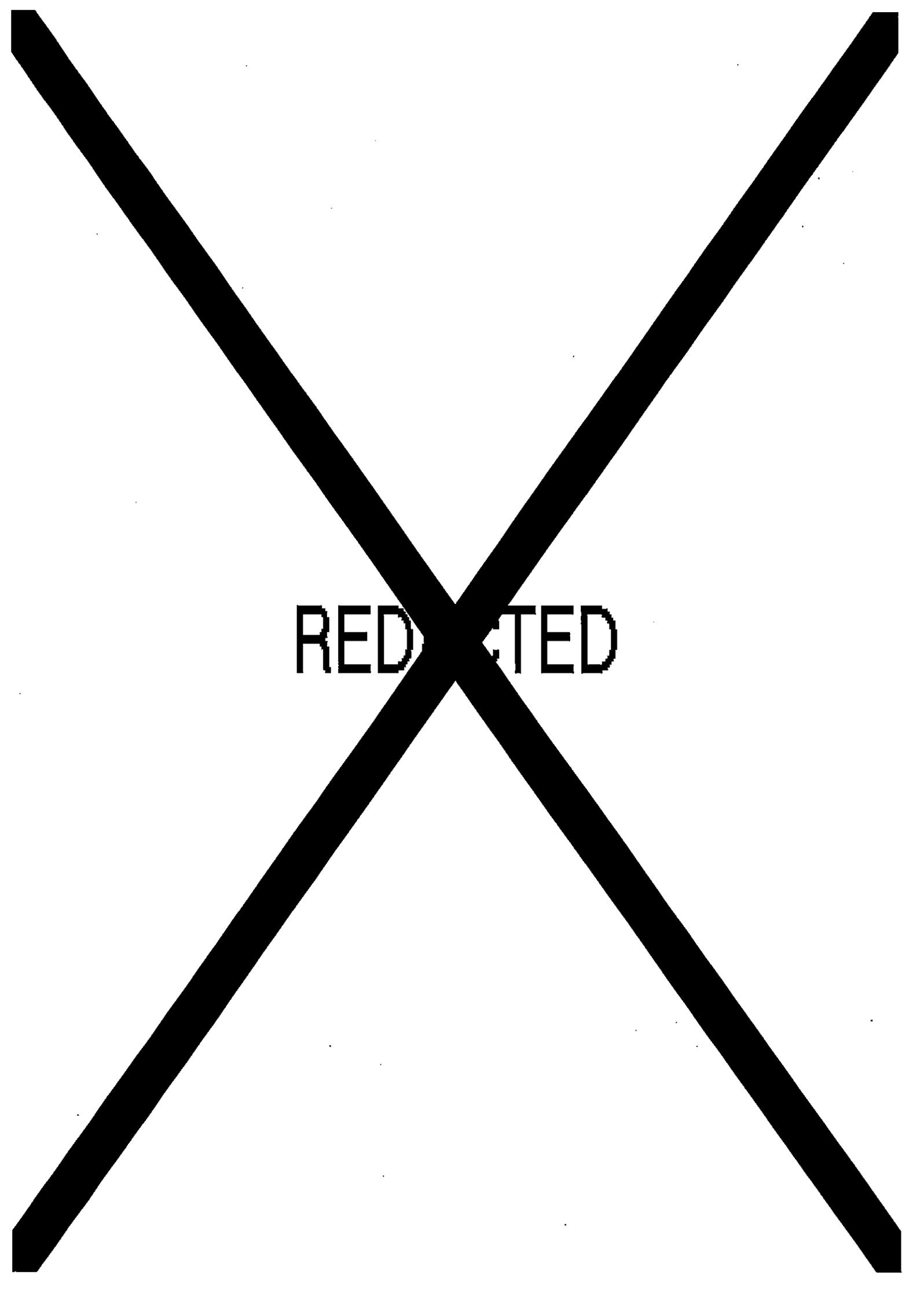
MEB
Phone: 2857

pp12-25 exempt in full - s
34(1)(c), s 42(1)

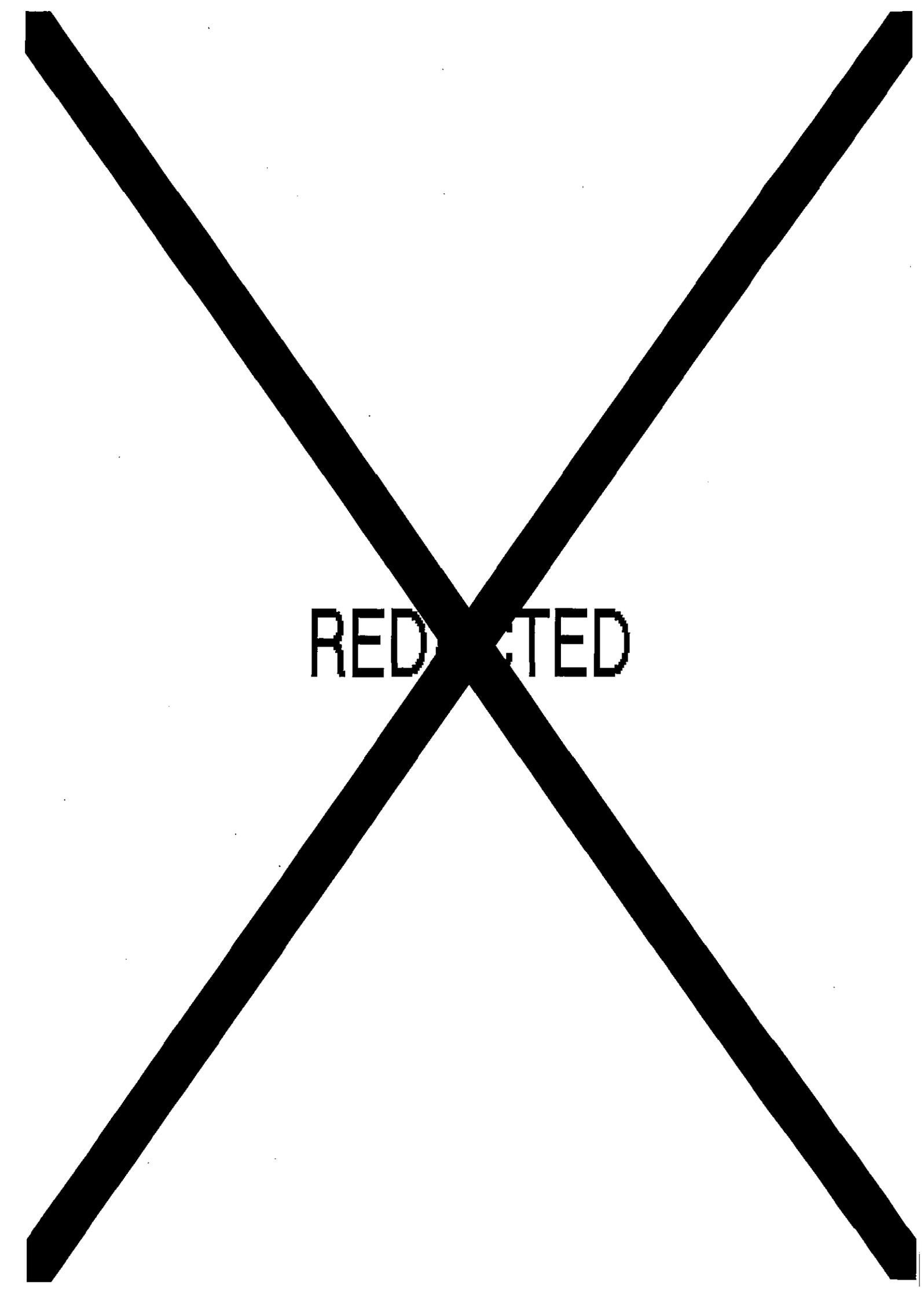
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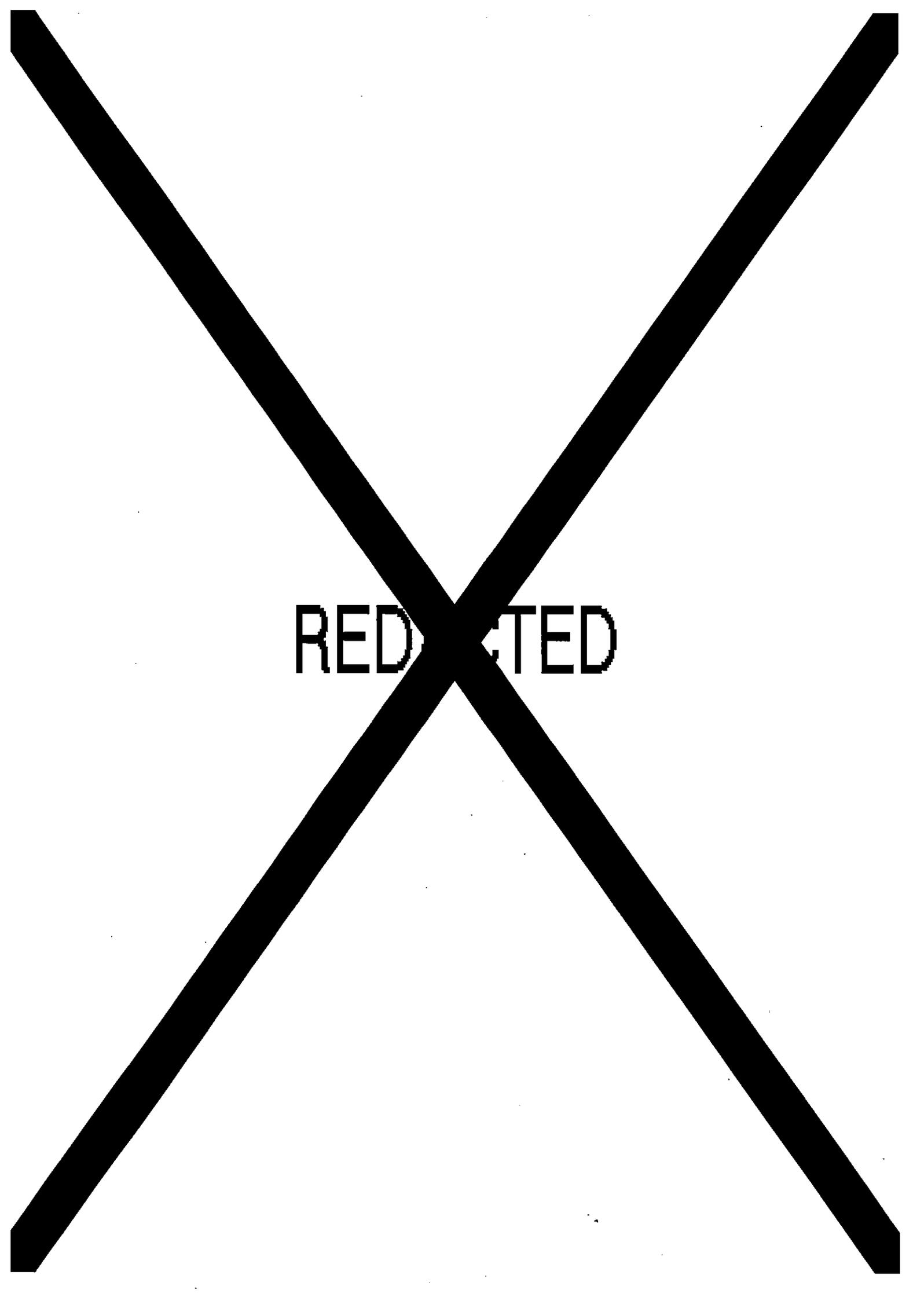
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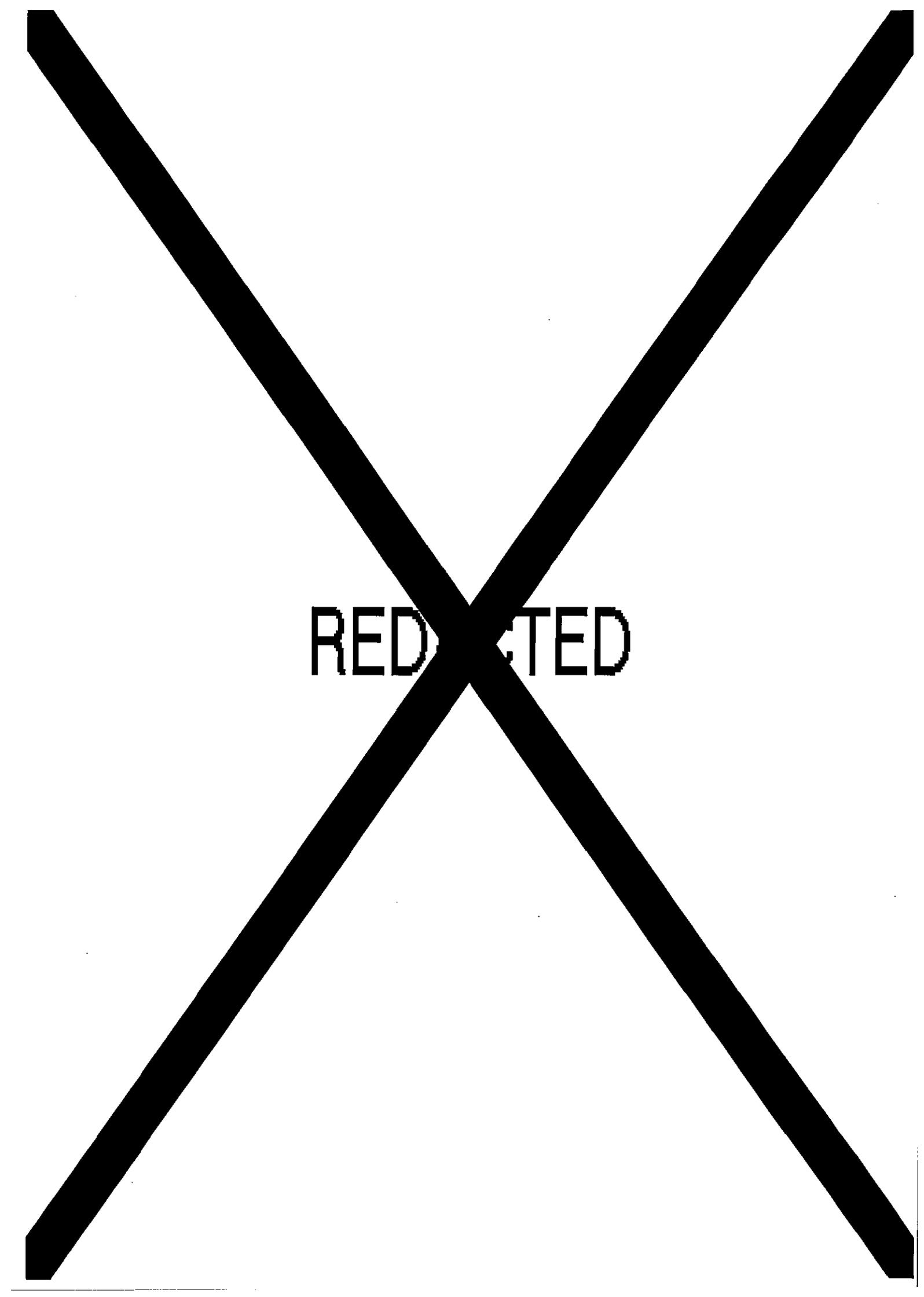
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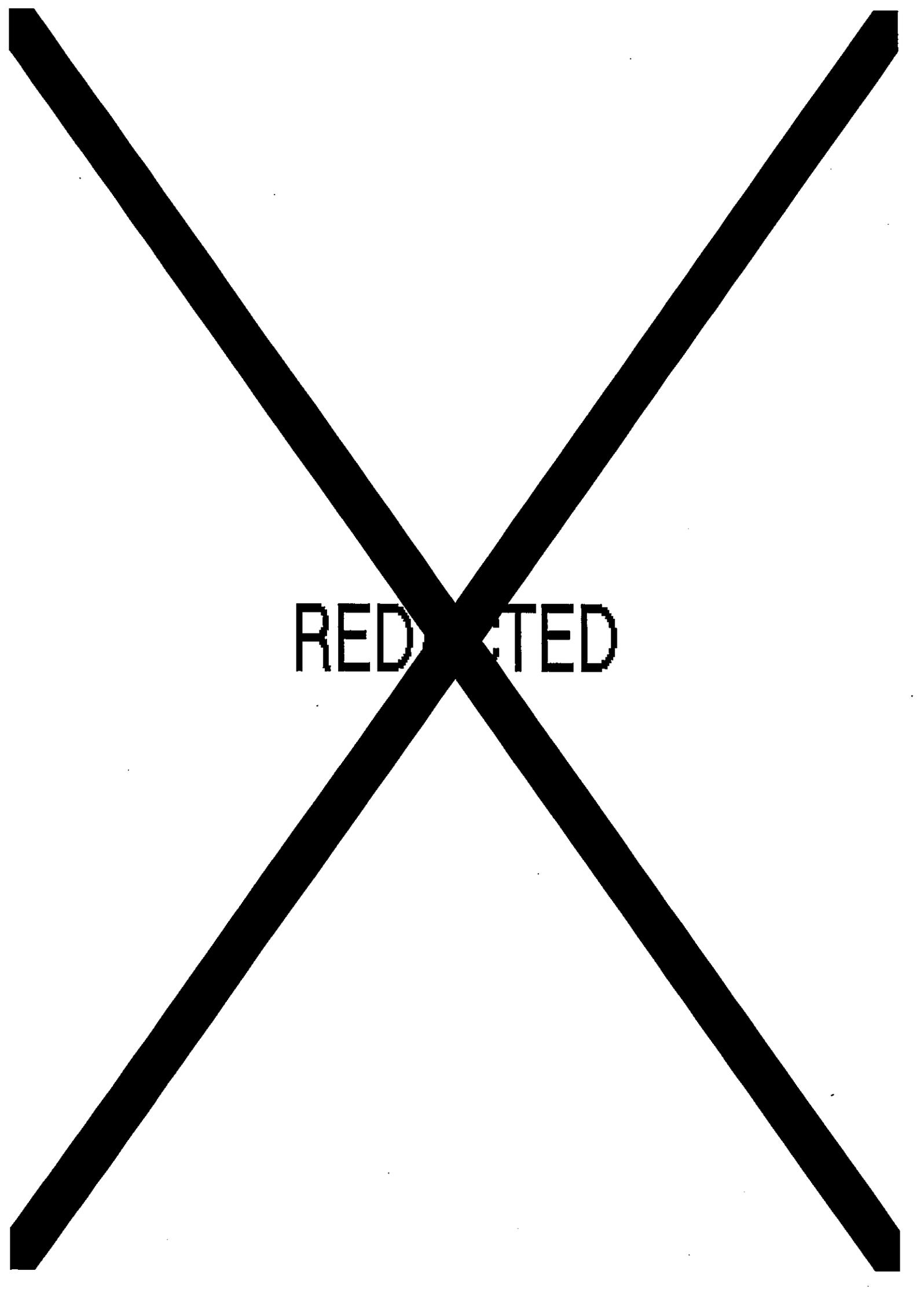
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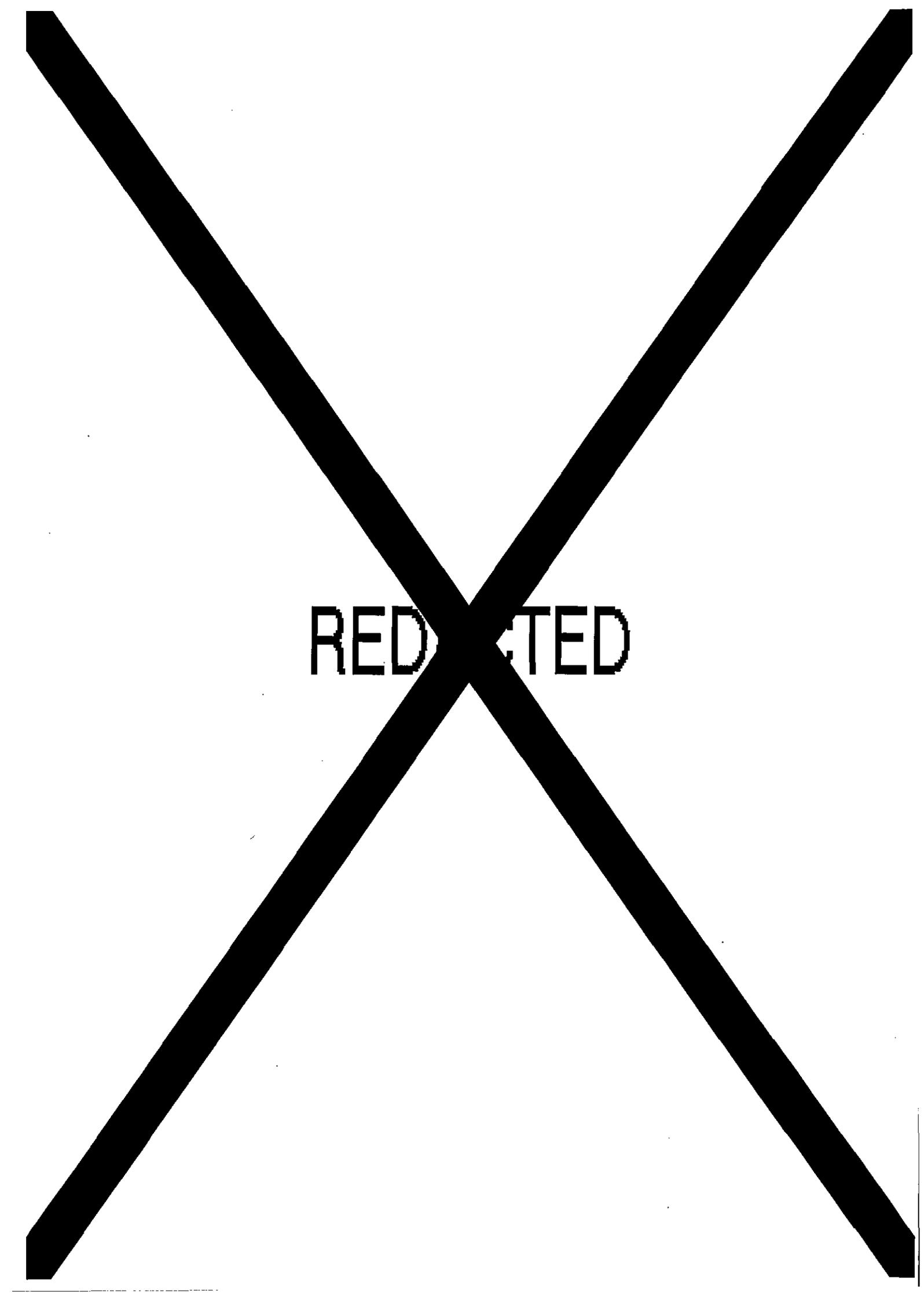
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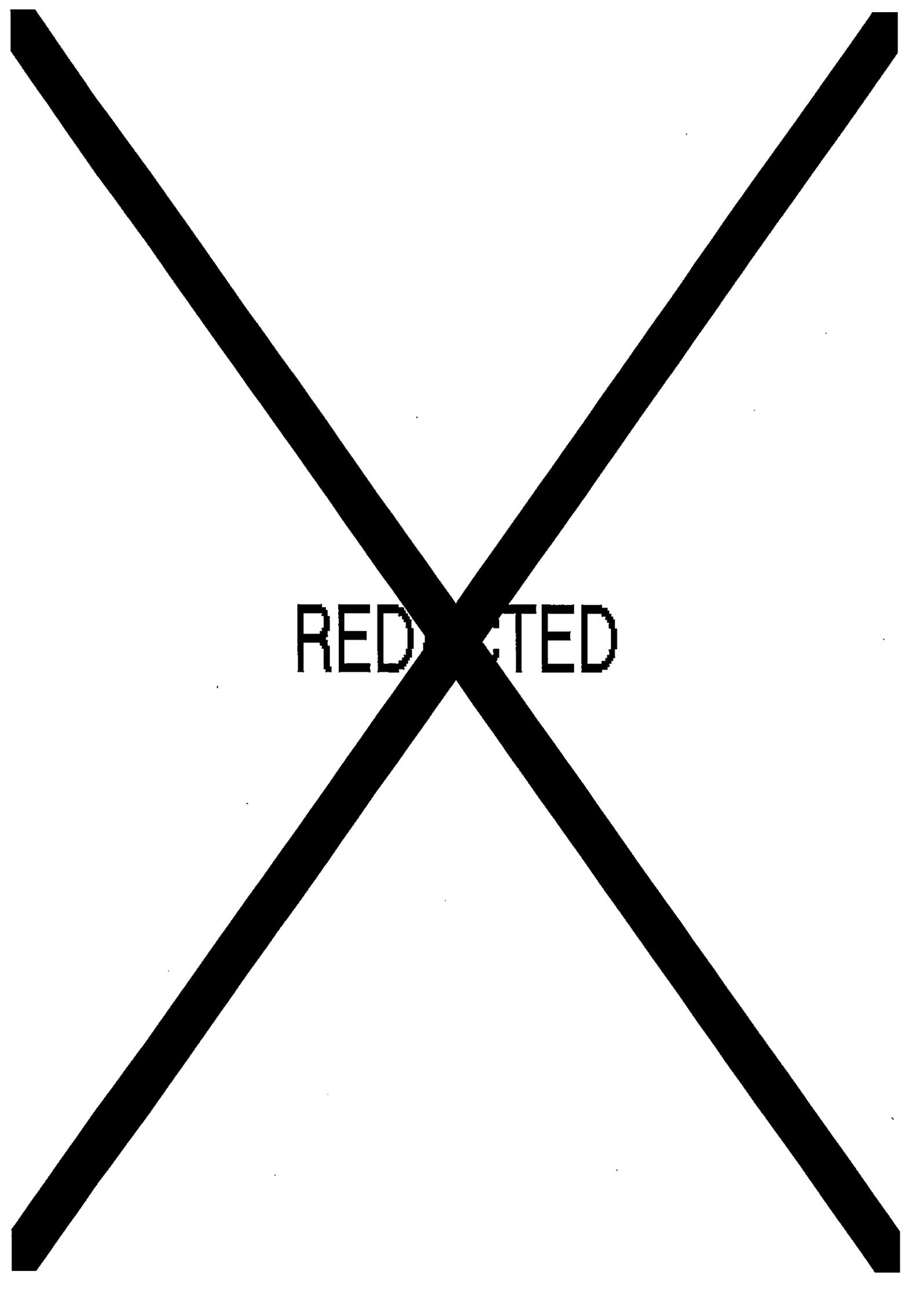
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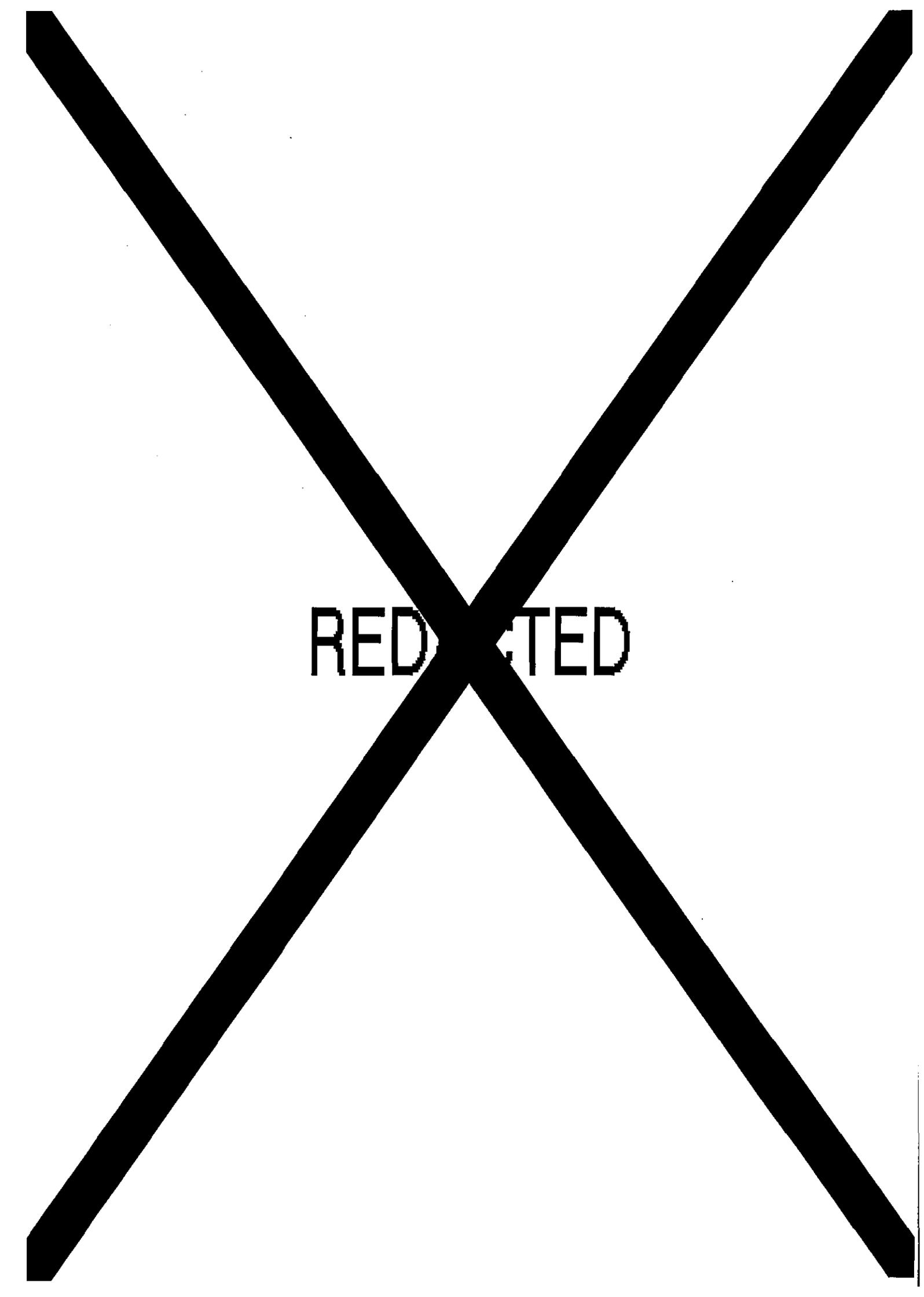
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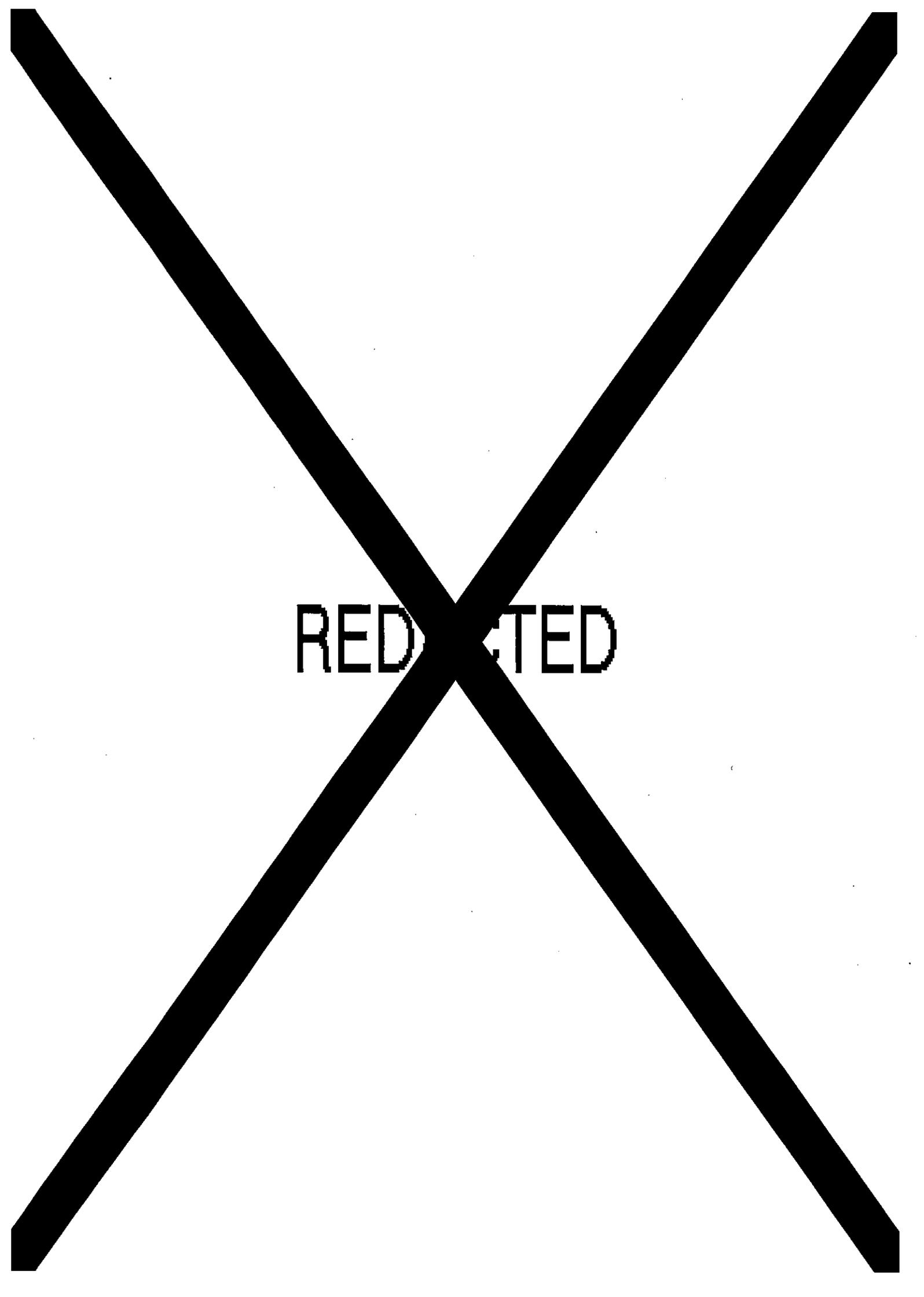
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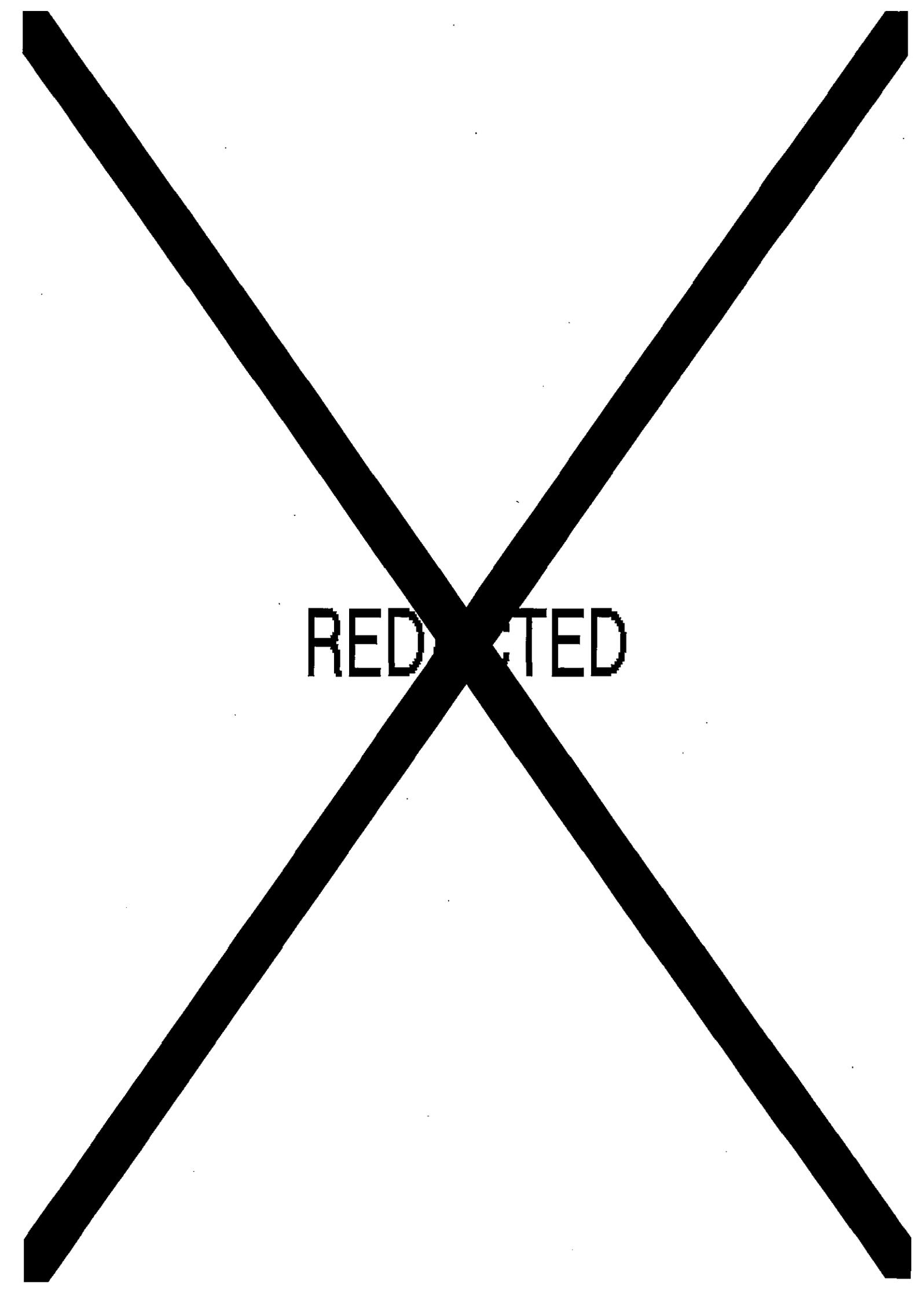
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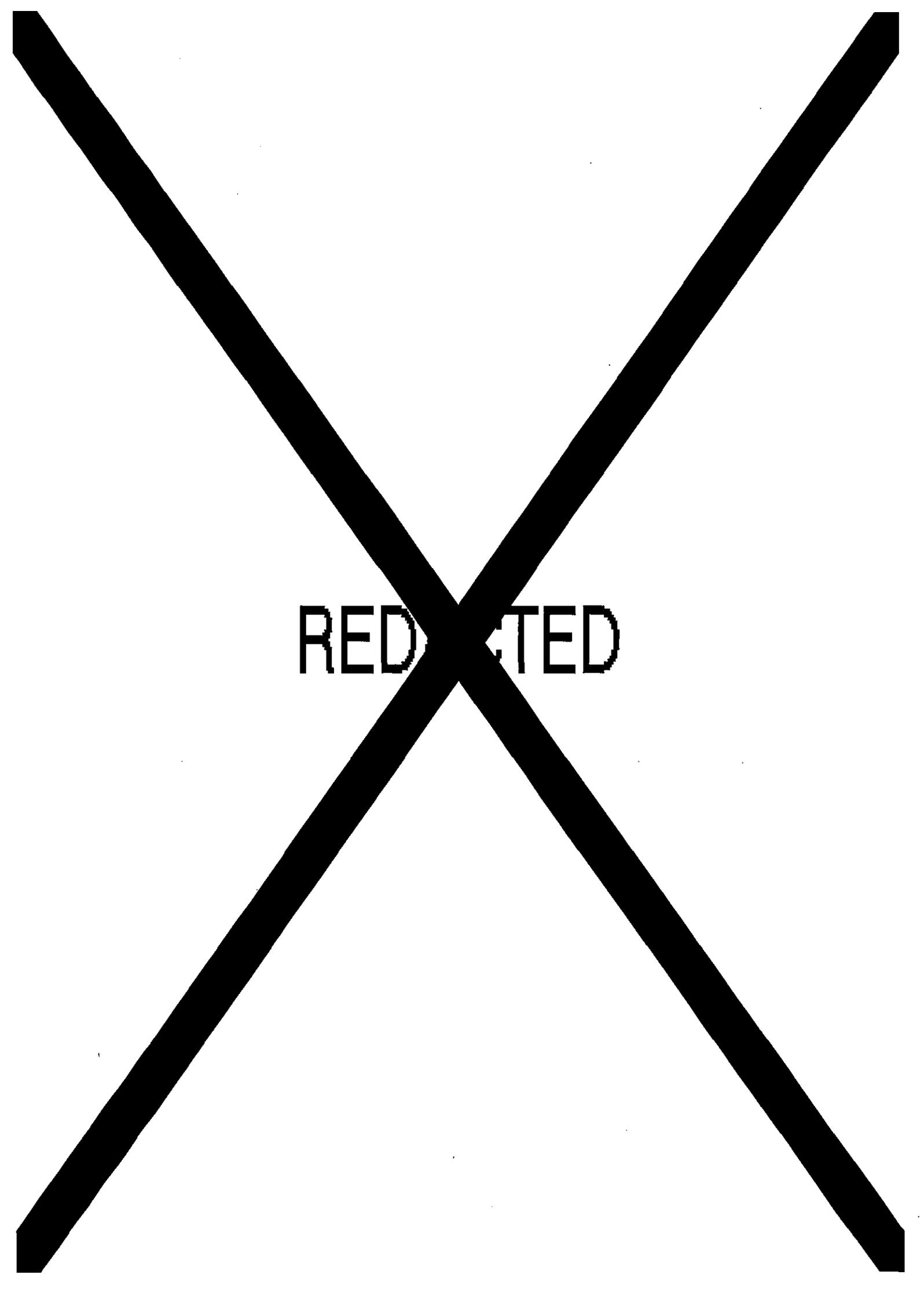
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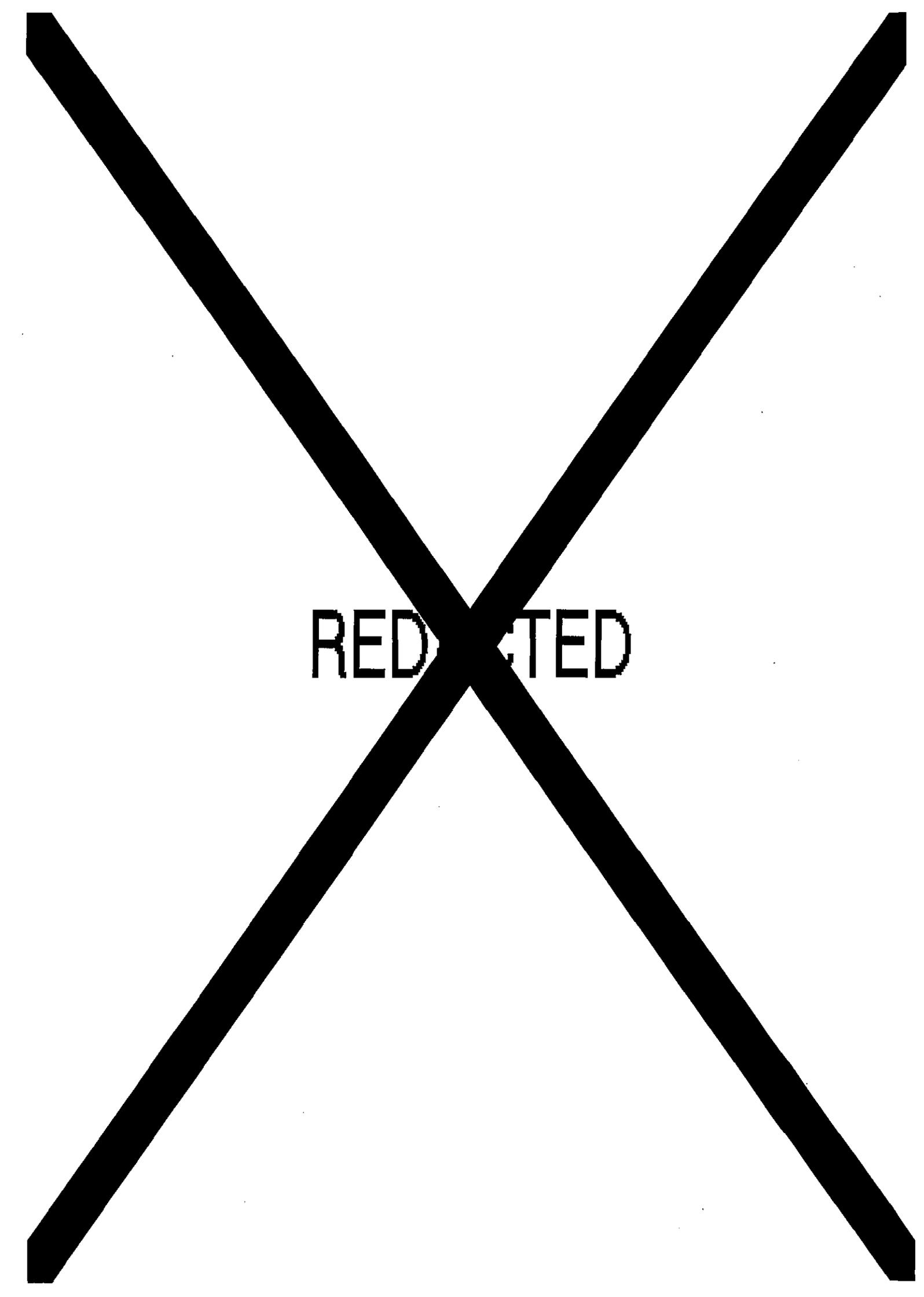
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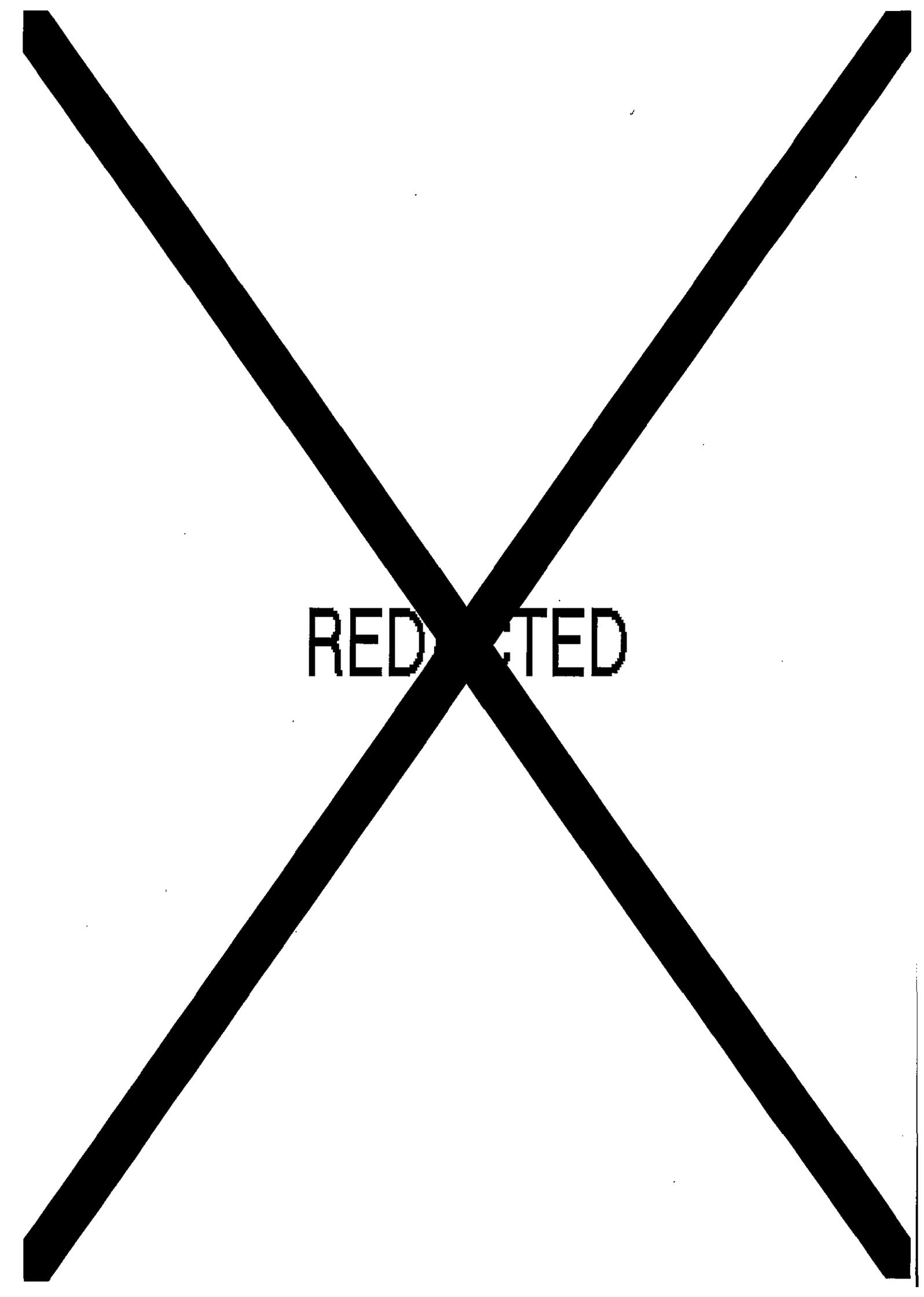
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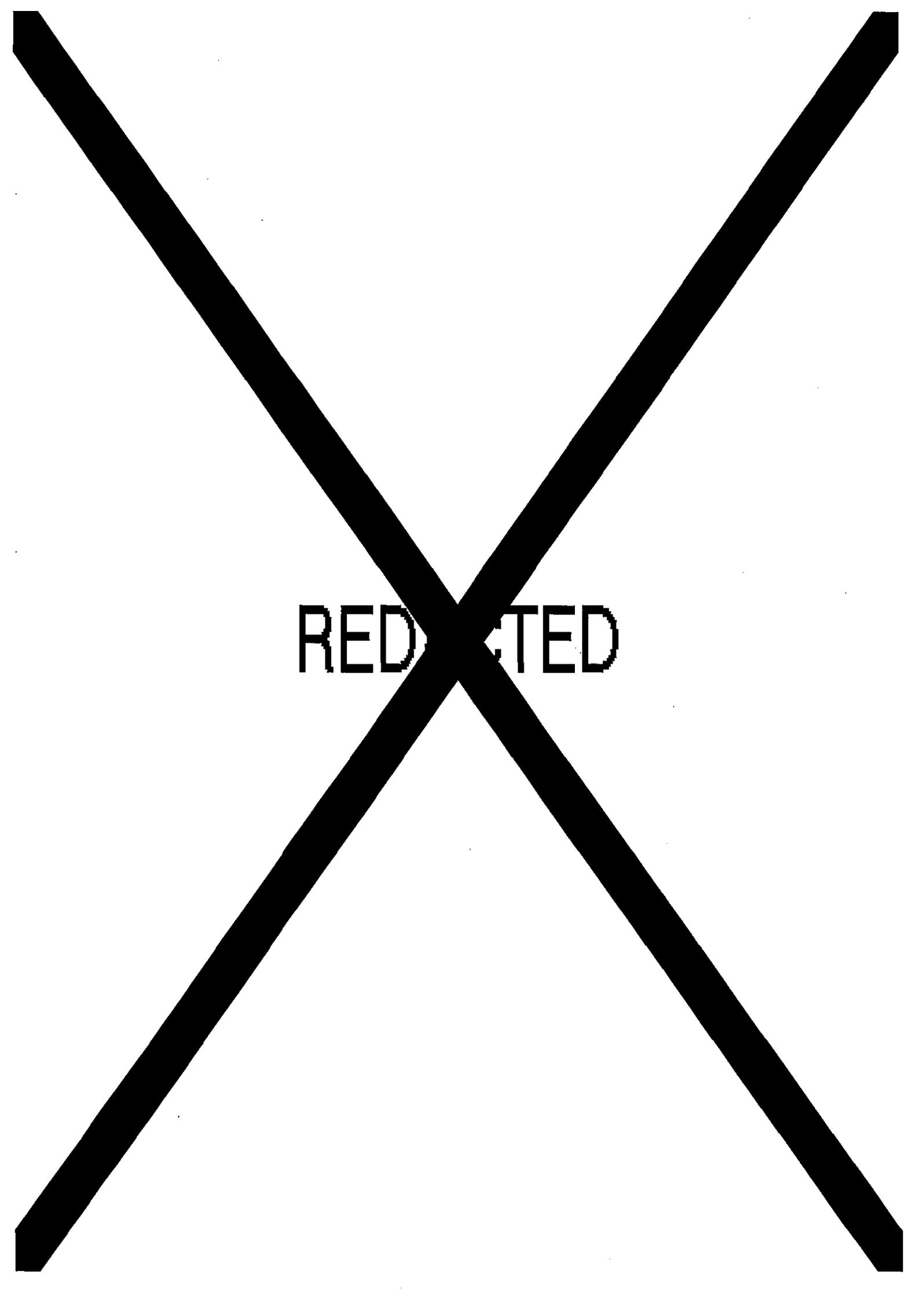
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pp 26-31 exempt in full -
s 34(1)(c)

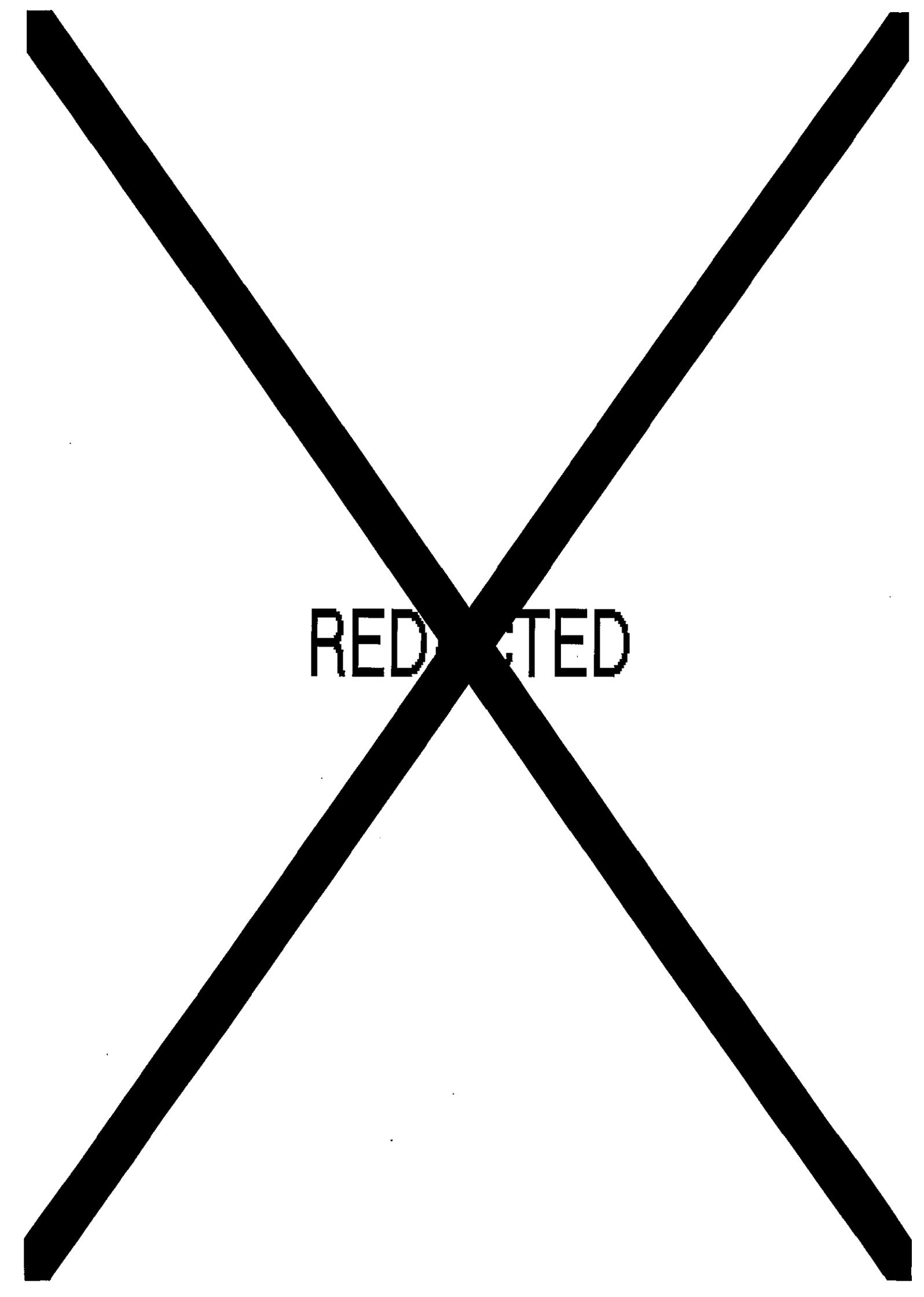
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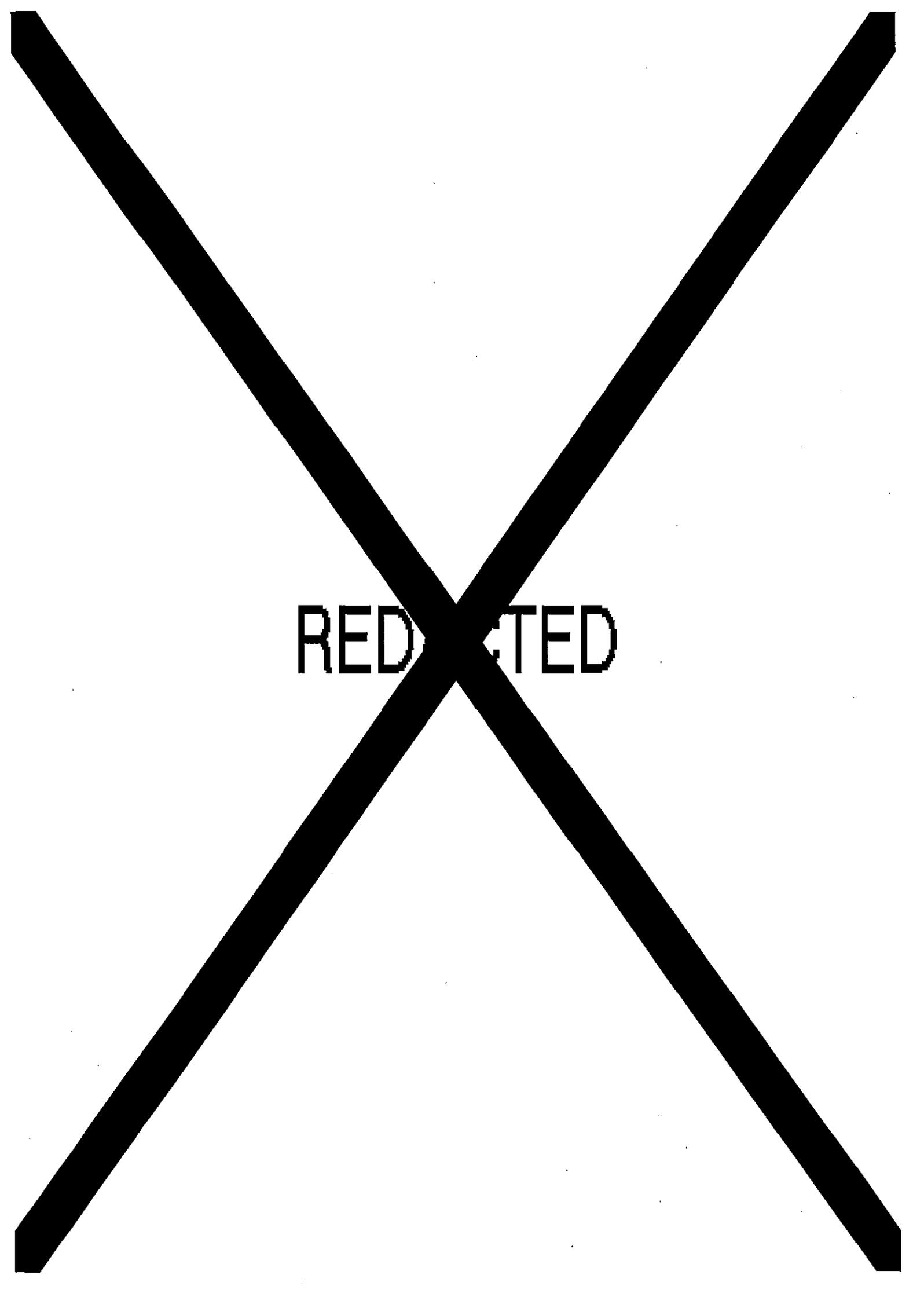
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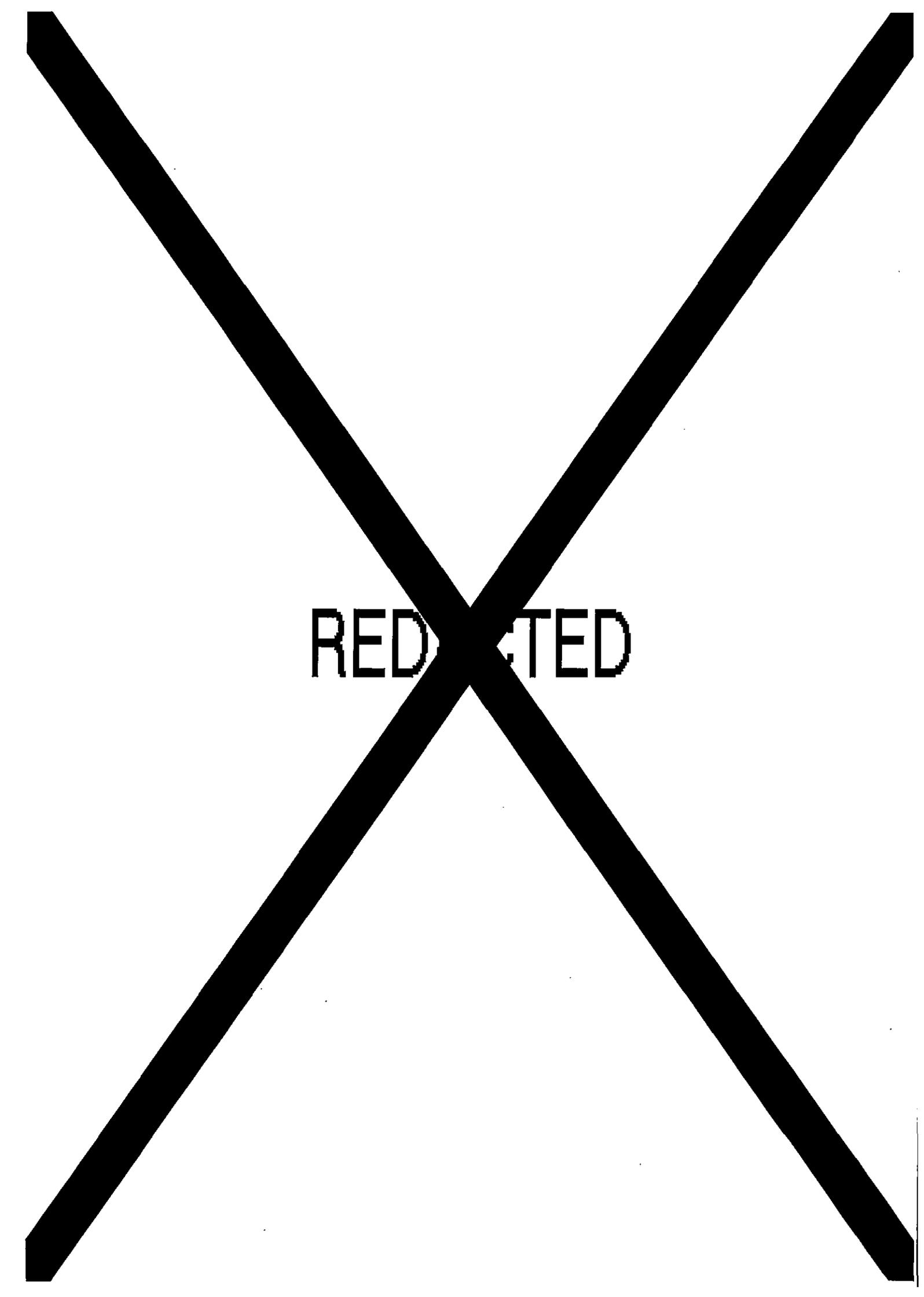
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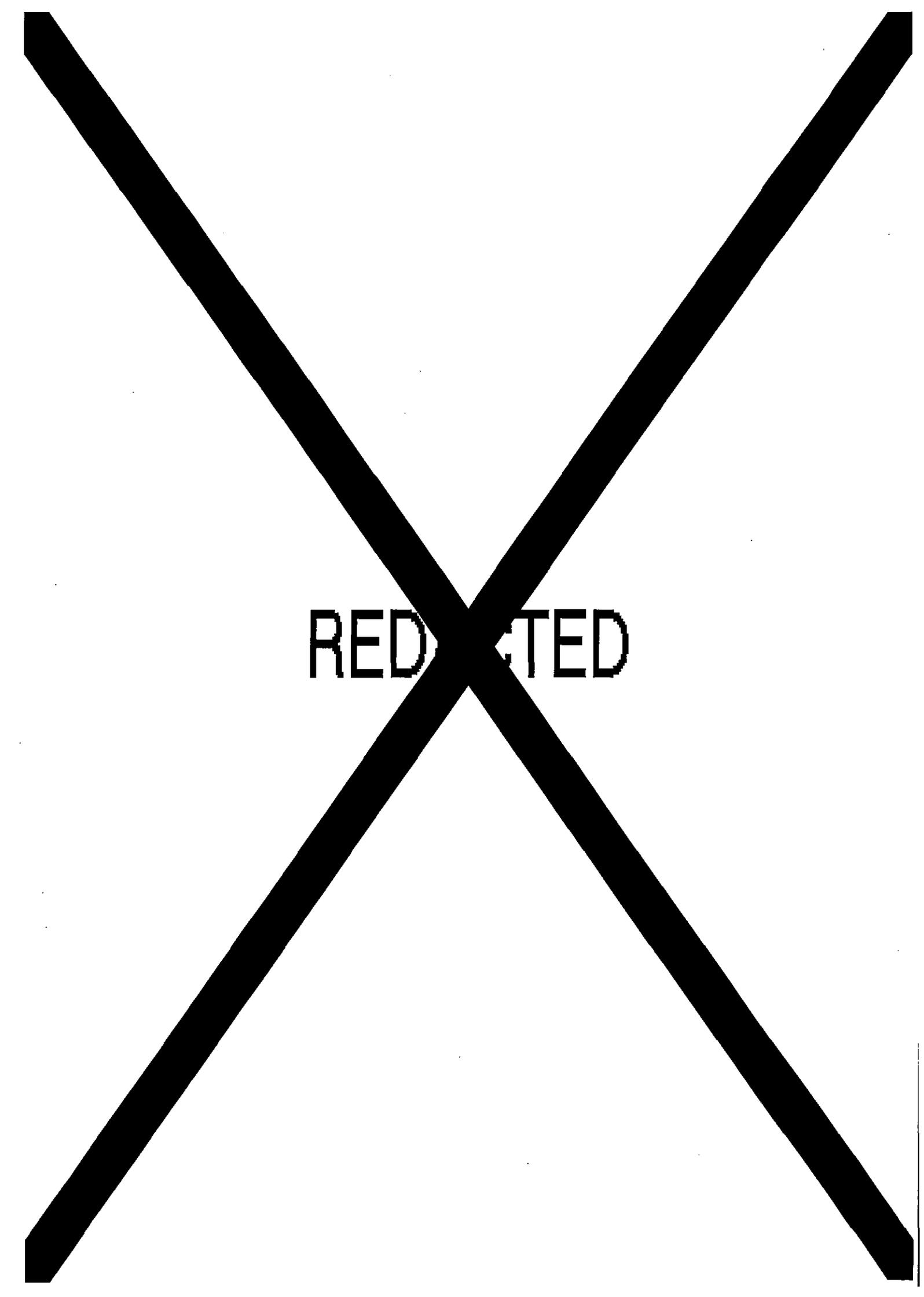
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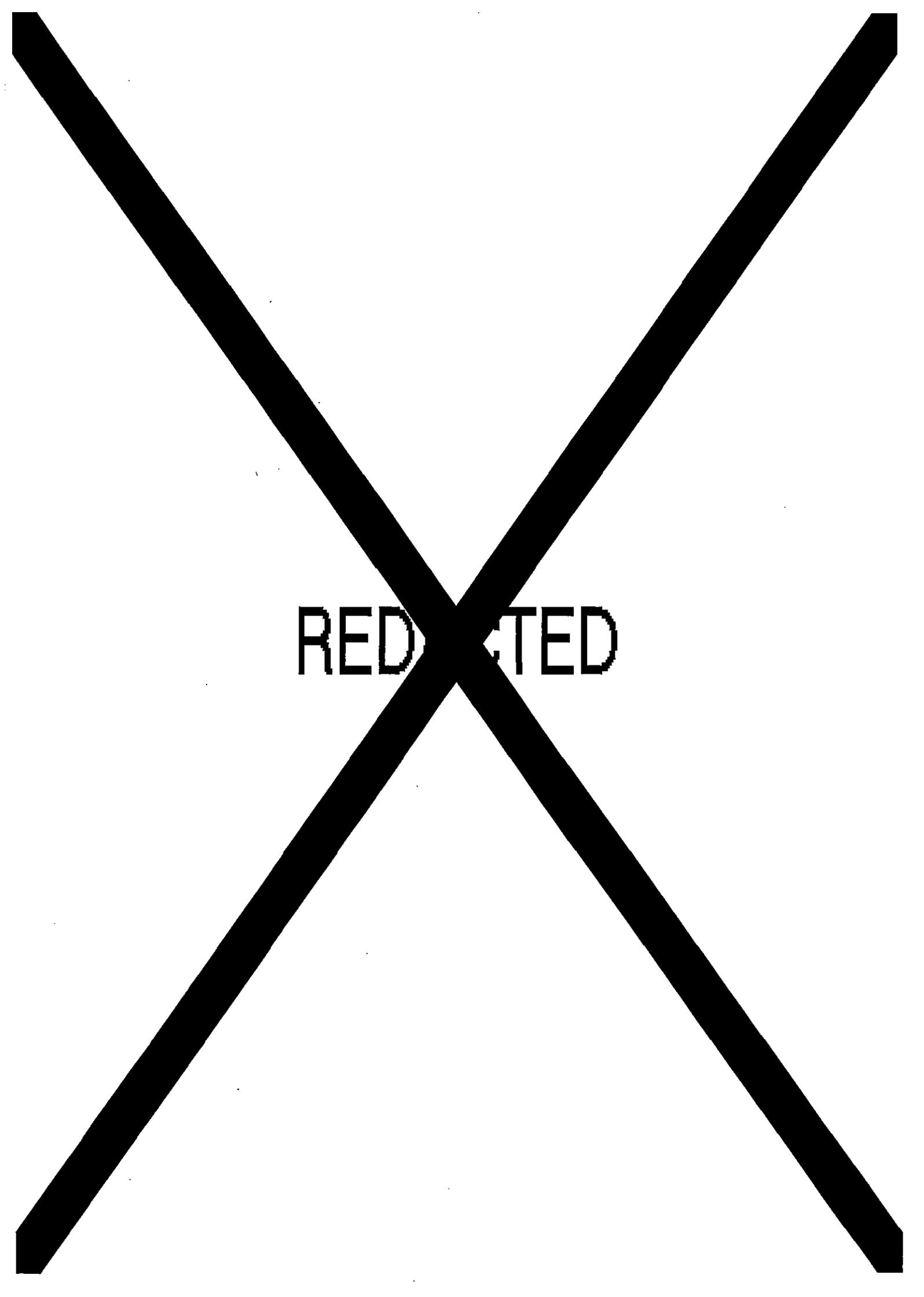
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pp 32-36 exempt in full - s
34(1)(c), s 42(1)

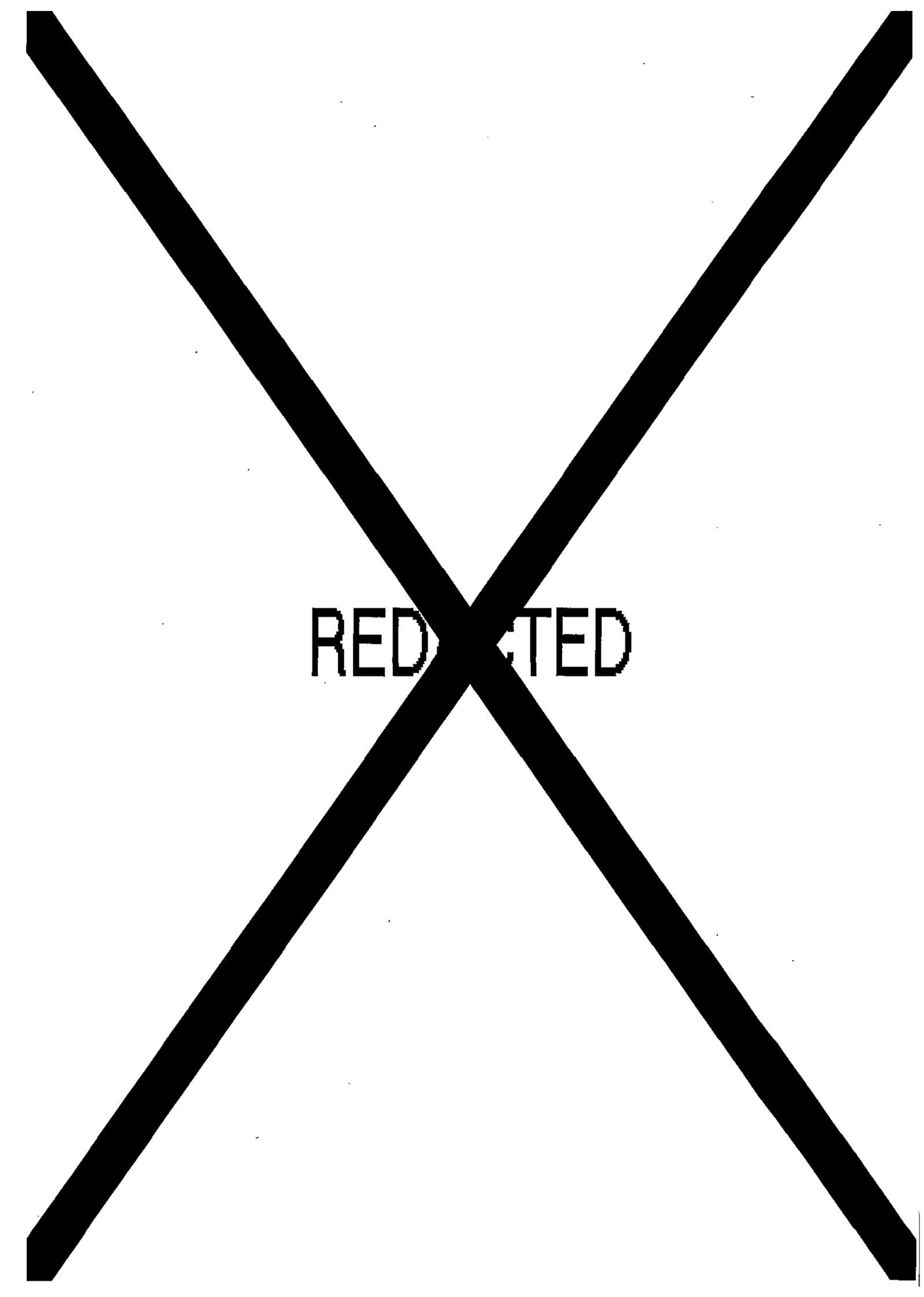
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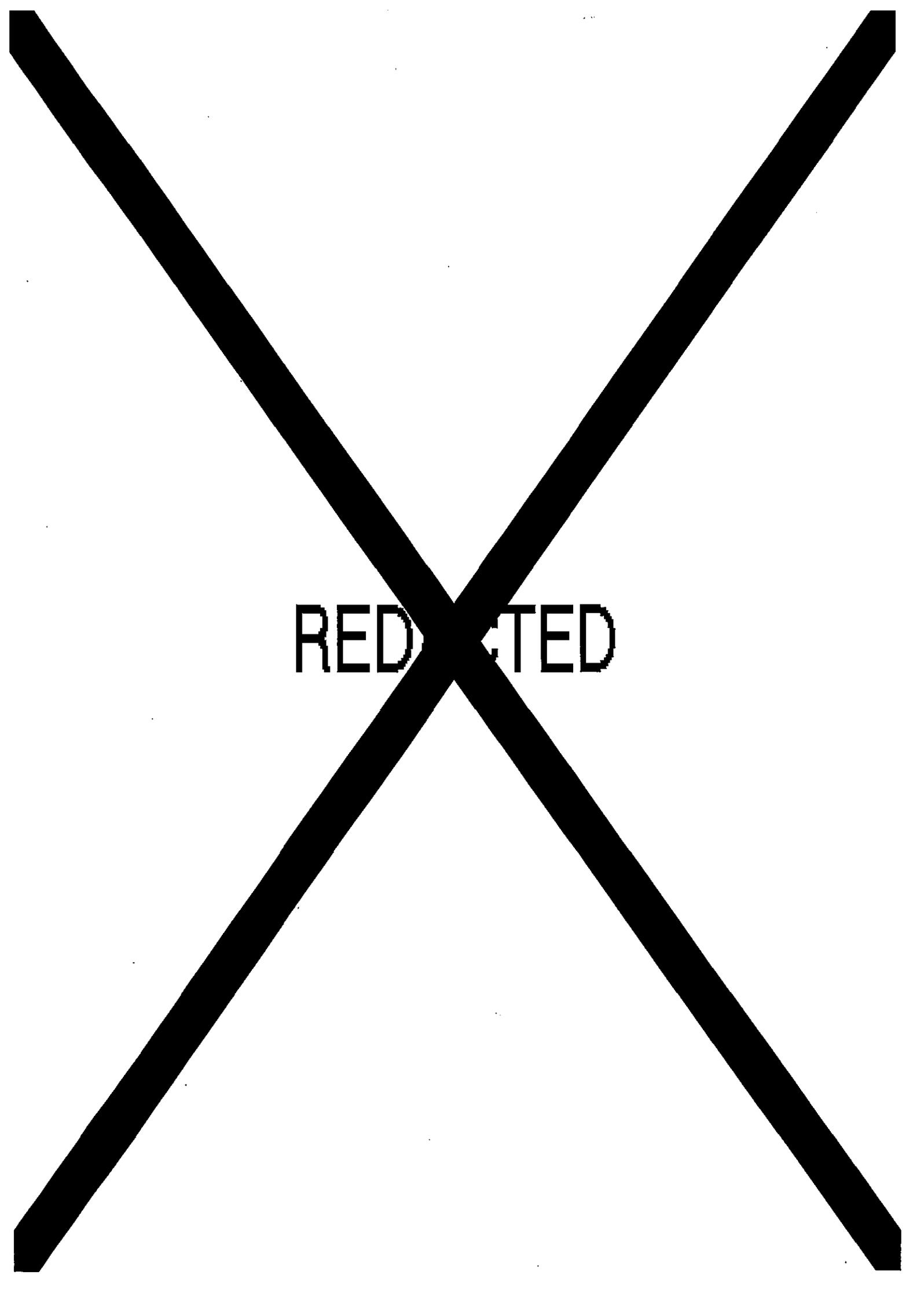
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THE HON TANYA PLIBERSEK MP
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
SHADOW MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
MEMBER FOR SYDNEY

SENATOR STEPHEN CONROY
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
SENATOR FOR VICTORIA

The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

The Hon Kevin Andrews MP
Minister for Defence
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ministers

We write to restate our request for a briefing regarding Australian Defence Force operations in the Middle East. In particular, we seek advice on the progress of current Australian deployments in the region and on Australian Government consideration of a request by the United States Government to extend Australia's military engagement.

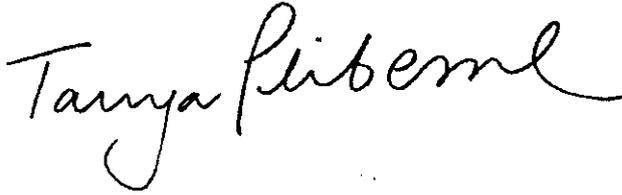
As you are aware, we consider that regular and full briefings are an important element of Labor's bipartisan support for Australian operations in the Middle East.

We are advised that it is the firm view of the Prime Minister's Office that Shadow Ministers seeking briefings should contact their counterparts to make arrangements.

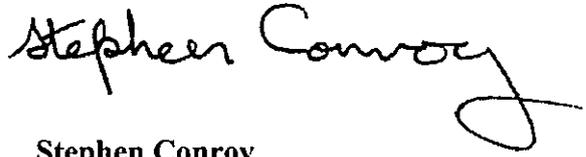
In light of this advice, and noting both the cancellation of a briefing on 19 August and that we are yet to receive a formal response to our request on 25 August for a subsequent briefing, we again request that a briefing be scheduled urgently.

The contacts in our offices are s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely



Tanya Plibersek



Stephen Conroy

F-11, S-19

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
TRADE**

I-3

Iraq - Political Situation: Iraq/Syria - Combating Daesh

Possible Question

What is the Government's response to Daesh in Iraq and Syria?

Talking Points

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- As the Prime Minister has confirmed, the US Secretary of Defense has asked Australia to consider extending its current counter-Daesh air operations into Syria
 - the Government will consider this request in the normal way, and in close consultation with our coalition partners
 - we all know Daesh does not respect borders and threatens Iraq's and international security from its Syria safe havens
 - the US, Canada and Arab countries are already conducting airstrikes against Daesh in Syria.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If raised: legal basis for involvement in military action in Syria

- The collective self-defence of Iraq against armed attacks by Daesh provides a legal basis for the use of force in Syria against Daesh targets linked to such attacks

- note that our allies and partners have cited the collective self-defence of Iraq as their legal basis for strikes against Daesh in Syria.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

An article in the Australian on 21 August (*US seeks greater RAAF role in Syria*, Dennis Shanahan) stated that the US had formally asked Australia to expand its air warfare role over Syria, including the potential for RAAF airstrikes against Daesh bases. The article stated that the request, conveyed to the Australian Embassy in Washington on 20 August, included enhanced intelligence-gathering, support for US and coalition fighter planes in Syrian air space and the potential for Australian airstrikes.

The Prime Minister confirmed at a press conference on 21 August that Australia had received a request to extend airstrikes, which he said we were considering carefully. He said we would not rush a decision, but would make a decision in the "next couple of weeks". The Prime Minister repeated comments made earlier (13 August) that the morality of airstrikes was the same on either side of the Iraq/Syria border, even if the legalities were different. He said "the question is, when they don't respect the border, why should we?"

The Government is in receipt of legal advice in relation to the use of force in Syria against Daesh. The legal justification for such force would be the collective self-defence of Iraq against Daesh on the basis that Syria was unable to prevent ongoing armed attacks by Daesh against Iraq. s 42(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared By:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assisant Director

MAD/MEB/ITF

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Edit Date: 28 August 2015 10:52:44 PM

To be Cleared By:

Greg Ralph

Assistant Secretary

MEB

Phone: 2857

Current version of the PPQ, as discussed:

F-11, S-19

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Iraq - Political Situation: Iraq/Syria - Combating Daesh

Possible Question

What is the Government's response to Daesh in Iraq and Syria?

Talking Points

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If raised: legal basis for involvement in military action in Syria

- Any use of force by Australia overseas, including airstrikes in Syria against Daesh, would be underpinned by a sound legal basis under international law.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background

DFAT – DECLASSIFIED
FILE: 15/46222
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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Prime Minister stated on 13 August that while no formal request had been made and no decision taken to extend Australia's airstrikes to Syria, the morality was the same on either side of the Iraq/Syria border even if the legalities were different. The Prime Minister confirmed there had been some approaches made to Australia at various levels on the issue.

The Government is in receipt of legal advice concerning the possibility of airstrikes by the ADF in Syria against Daesh. The legal justification for such airstrikes would be the collective self-defence of Iraq against Daesh on the basis that Syria was unable to prevent ongoing armed attacks by Daesh against Iraq.s 42(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, Iraq Taskforce | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

☎ +61 2 6261 s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au

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FILE: 15/46222
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Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**MEDIA TALKING
POINTS
DISTRIBUTION:
STANDARD**

**Topic: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY Originating Division: MAD
Subject: Syria: Request to conduct airstrikes; humanitarian assistance**

Version Date: 21/08/2015

Version: 1

Expiry: 10/11/2015

Talking Points

- . Australia has received a request to extend our airstrikes from Iraq into Syria
 - considering the request carefully.
- s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If asked about the legal basis for involvement of ADF personnel in any future airstrikes against Daesh in Syria

- . The collective self-defence of Iraq against armed attacks by Daesh provides a legal basis for the use of force in Syria against Daesh targets linked to such attacks
 - note that our allies and partners have cited the collective self-defence of Iraq as their legal basis for strikes against Daesh in Syria.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If asked: won't airstrikes against Daesh in Syria benefit the Assad regime / Al-Qaeda-affiliate Jabhat Al-Nusra?

- . These policy questions will be an important part of government consideration of the US request.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background

An article in the Australian on 21 August (*US seeks greater RAAF role in Syria*, Dennis Shanahan) stated that the US had formally asked Australia to expand its air warfare role over Syria, including the potential for RAAF airstrikes against Daesh bases. The article stated that the request, conveyed to the Australian Embassy in Washington on 20 August, included enhanced intelligence-gathering, support for US and coalition fighter planes in Syrian air space and the potential for Australian airstrikes.

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airstrikes was the same on either side of the Iraq/Syria border, even if the legalities were different. He said "the question is, when they don't respect the border, why should we?"

The Government is in receipt of legal advice in relation to the use of force in Syria against Daesh. The legal justification for such force would be the collective self-defence of Iraq against Daesh on the basis that Syria was unable to prevent ongoing armed attacks by Daesh against Iraq. The US, the UK and Canada all cited the justification of collective self-defence of Iraq in letters to the United Nations Security Council in relation to action in Syria.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

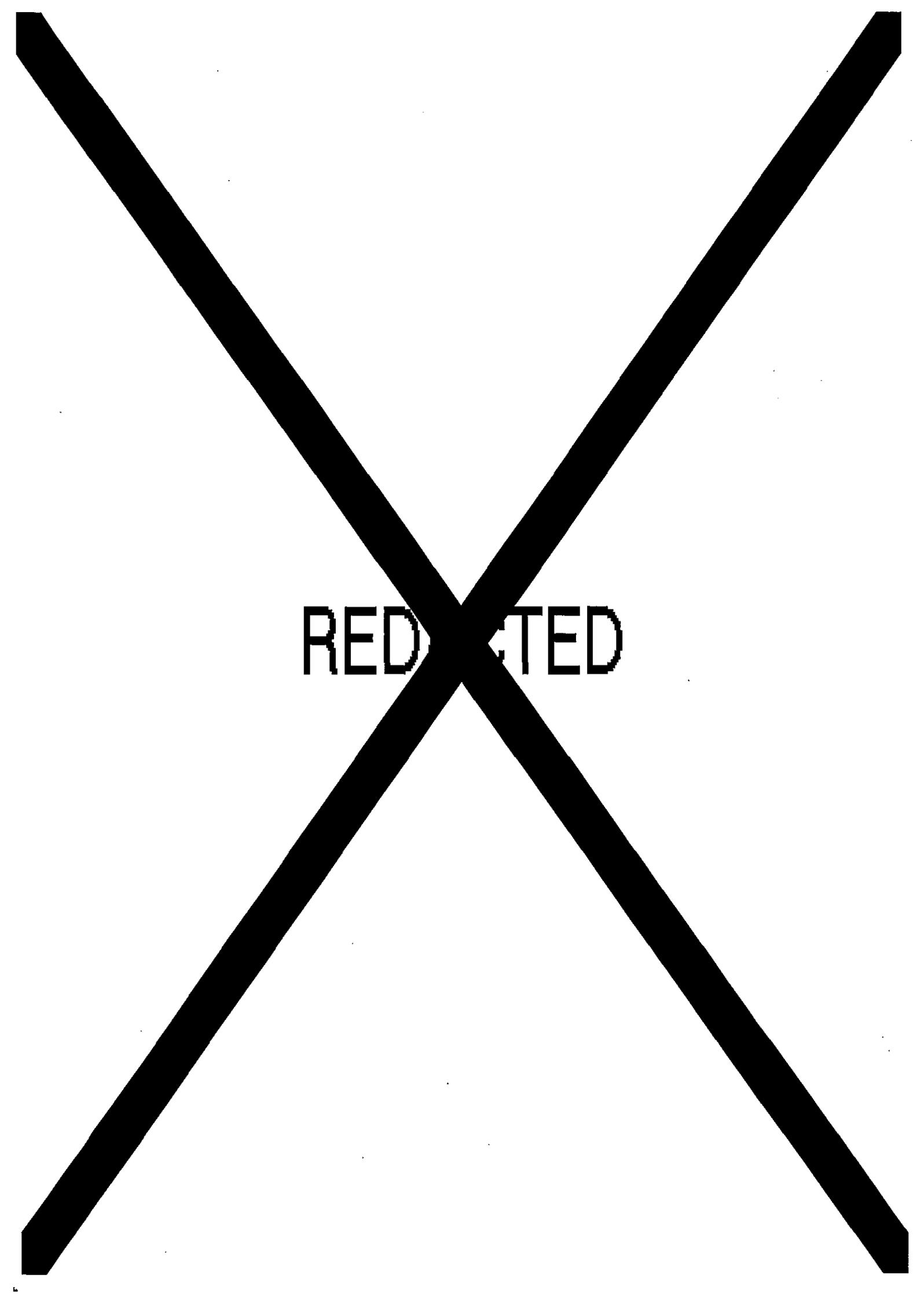
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Approval | |
| Consultation | LGD |
| Author | s 22(1)(a)(ii) Director ITF/ s 22(1)(a)(ii) Director MDS |
| Cleared by | Greg Ralph, AS MEB |

| |
|--|
| Distribution |
| Media Liaison Section, SES, HOMs/HOPs, STO Directors, Secretary's EO and Senior Executive PA's, A-based public affairs officers, A-based HOM PAs, FMO, TIMO, Parl Sec Office, PMO and PM&C addressees. |

pp. 53-54 exempt in full -
s 33(a)(iii)

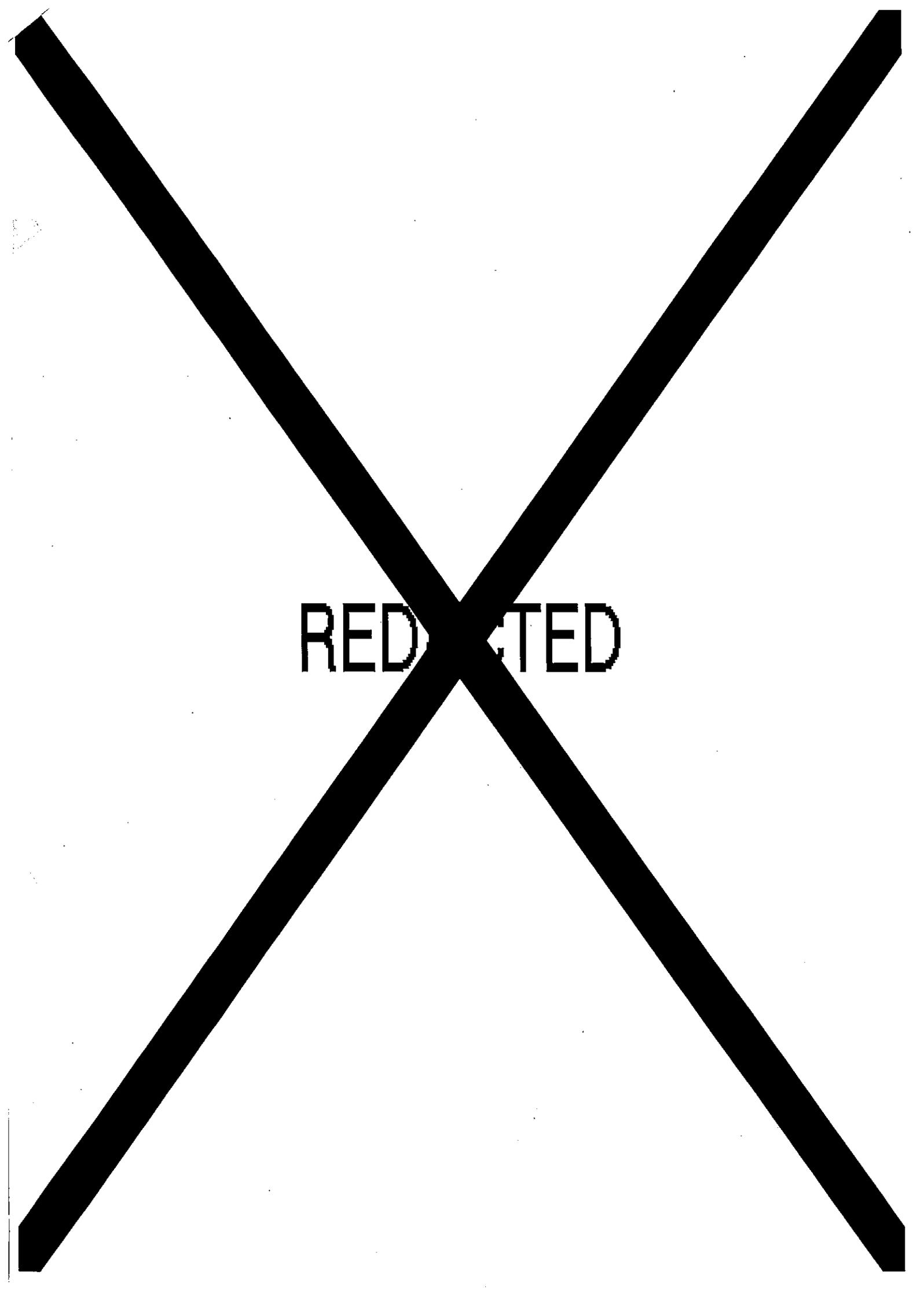
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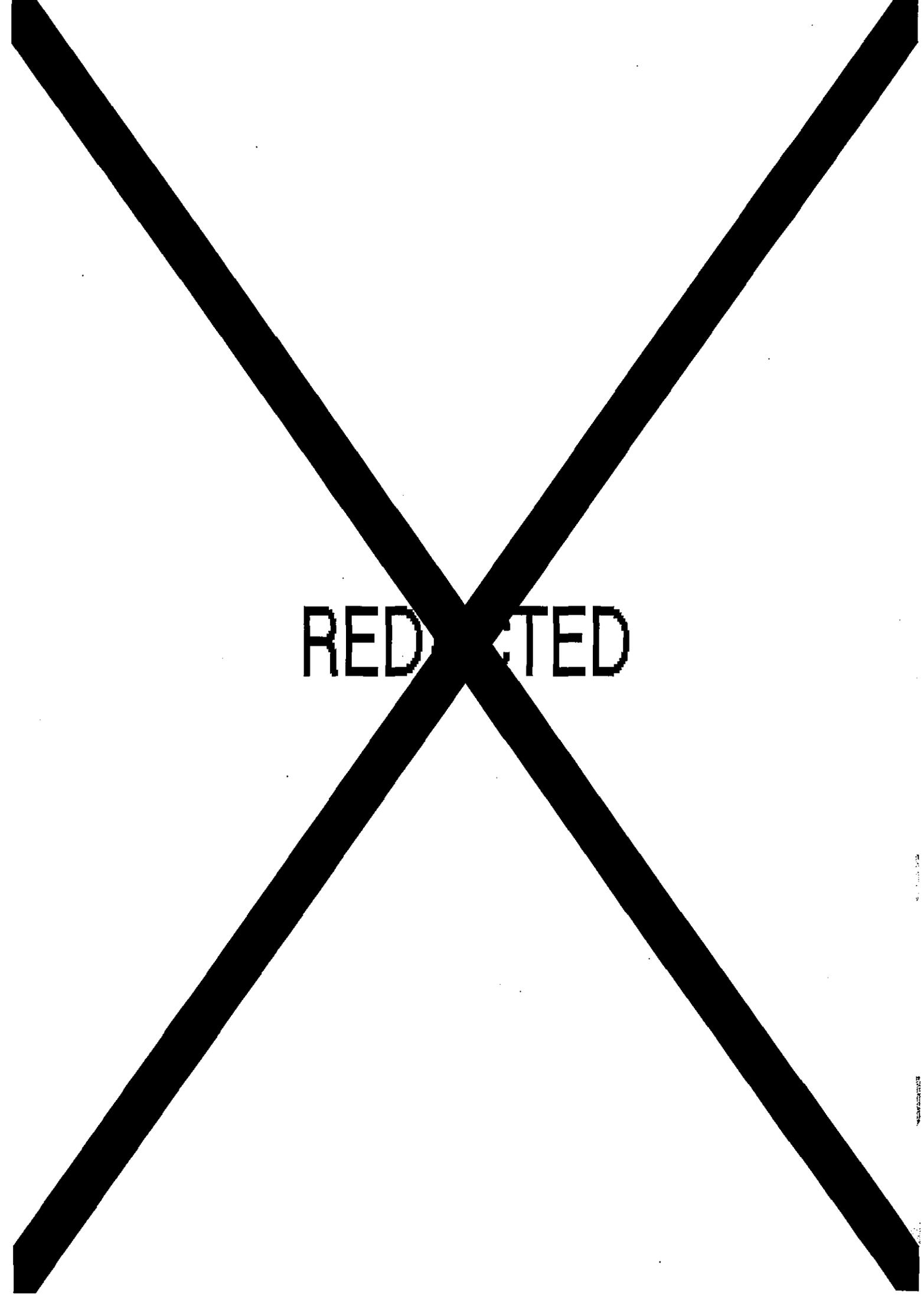
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pp 55-58 exempt in full - s
33(b), s 33(a)(iii)

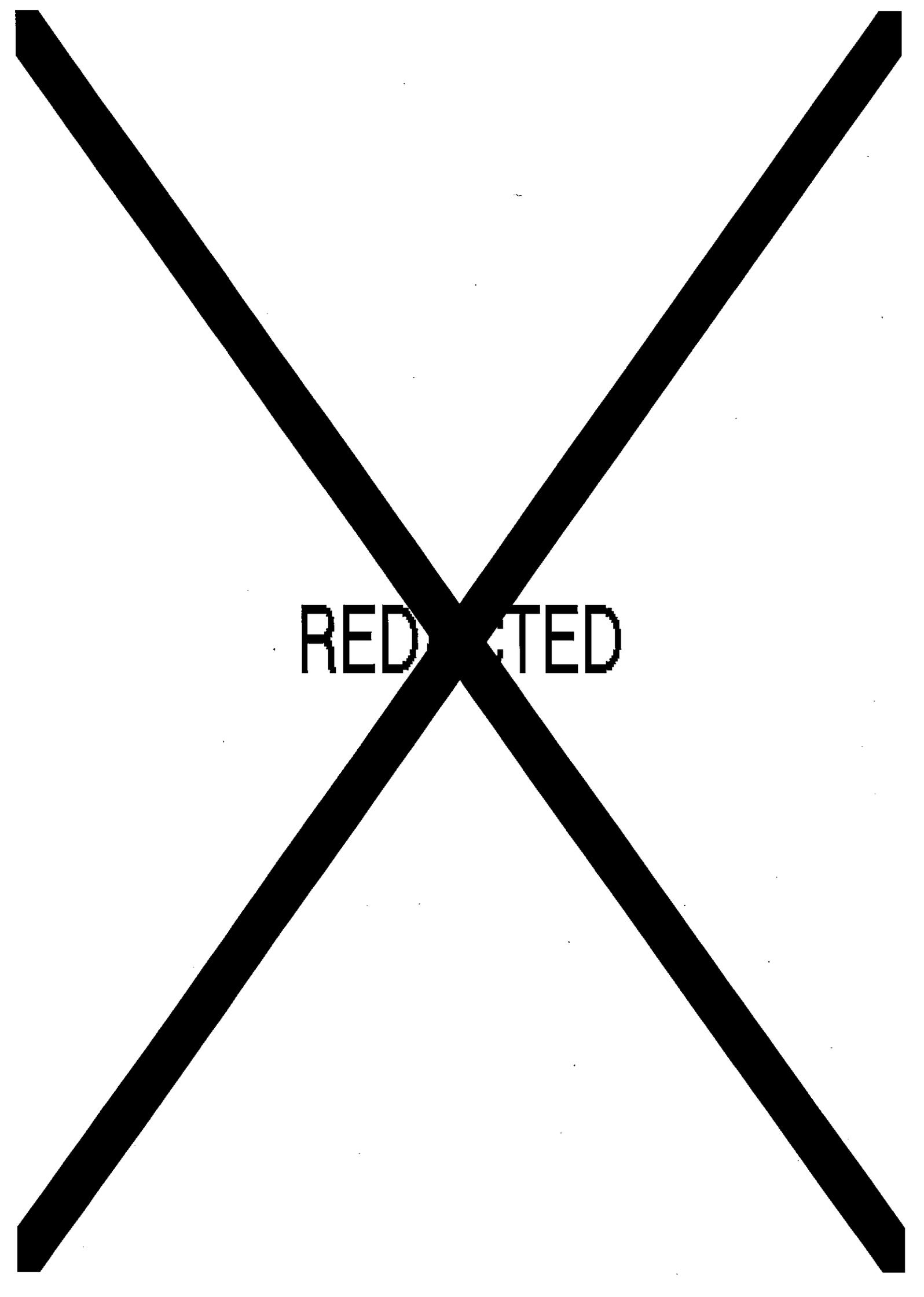
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F-11, S-19

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
TRADE**

I-3

Iraq - Political Situation: Iraq/Syria - Combating Daesh

Possible Question

What is the Government's response to Daesh in Iraq and Syria?

Talking Points

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If raised: Is the Government considering military action in Syria?

- The situation in Iraq and Syria is complex
 - the Government's efforts are focus on assisting the Iraqi Government in its fight against Daesh
 - but welcome the efforts of other partners in tackling Daesh in Syria.

If raised: legal basis for involvement in military action in Syria

- Any use of force by Australia overseas, including airstrikes in Syria against Daesh, would be underpinned by a sound legal basis under international law.
- s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Background

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Prime Minister stated on 13 August that while no formal request had been made and no decision taken to extend Australia's airstrikes to Syria, the morality was the same on either side of the Iraq/Syria border even if the legalities were different. The Prime Minister confirmed there had been some approaches made to Australia at various levels on the issue.

The Government is in receipt of legal advice concerning the possibility of airstrikes by the ADF in Syria against Daesh. The legal justification for such airstrikes would be the collective self-defence of Iraq against Daesh on the basis that Syria was unable to prevent ongoing armed attacks by Daesh against Iraq. s 42(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prepared By:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Assisant Director
MAD/MEB/ITF
Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Edit Date: 17 August 2015 09:15:26 AM

Cleared By:

Greg Ralph
Assistant Secretary
MEB
Phone: 2857

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Syria

- Australia's current military efforts are focused on protecting the security of Iraq. Together with our coalition partners, our mission is clear: we will disrupt, degrade and ultimately defeat Daesh.
- We all know Daesh does not respect borders and threatens Iraq's and international security from its Syrian safe havens.
- The US, Canada and Arab countries are already conducting airstrikes against Daesh in Syria. Other coalition nations including the UK and the Netherlands are also considering strikes in Syria.
- Australian units are not currently conducting airstrikes against Daesh in Syria.
- We are in ongoing contact with our coalition partners about the campaign against Daesh. No formal request to participate in strikes in Syria has been made. We would consider any request in consultation with our coalition partners.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

If asked: about strikes against Daesh in Syria?

Australia's current military efforts are focused on Iraq.

We all know Daesh does not respect borders and threatens Iraq's and international security from its Syria safe havens.

The US, Canada and Arab countries are already conducting airstrikes against Daesh in Syria. Other coalition nations including the UK and the Netherlands are also considering strikes in Syria.

If asked: has the US requested strikes in Syria?

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FILE: 15/46222
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We are in ongoing contact with our coalition partners about the campaign against Daesh. No formal request 66 has been made.

We would consider any request in consultation with our coalition partners.

If asked: about mission creep?

Our mission is to contribute to the coalition to degrade Daesh to protect the security of Iraq.

The wider coalition effort against Daesh includes operations in and over Syria. But our focus is currently on Iraq.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Happy to discuss any of the above.

Regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - Director Iraq
International Policy Division
Department of Defence
Ph +61 2 6265 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Location R1-5-C098, Russell Offices
Postal Address: PO Box 7902 Canberra BC ACT 2610
E's 22(1)(a)(ii) @defence.gov.au

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-----Original Message-----

From: s 47F(1)

Sent: Wednesday, 9 September 2015 7:07 AM

To: Bishop, Julie (MP); Menzies Electorate (K. Andrews, MP)

Subject: Expansion of ISIS fight into Syria.

Dear Ministers,

In past correspondence I have raised my strong objections for Australia fighting ISIL.

Rather I advocated a primarily containment policy so that ISIL is etched into the memory of the local populace who would eventually get rid of them or ISIL self implodes. The memory would prevent future re-occurrence as is the case for Nazism in Europe.

I understand that you are considering expanding our involvement in action into Syria.

My original objection last year was based on past failures of various coalitions we have been involved in Iraq that contributed to the current ISIL problems. Further when Iraqi soldiers melted away from Mosul last year, it clearly demonstrated a lack of will or ability for the Iraqi government to confront ISIL. In such a situation what hope has our limited defence resources in confronting ISIL if the locals aren't willing or able to fight. On that basis I advocated essentially a containment policy of minimal involvement. Nothing appear to have change re the Iraq governments abilities.

Understandably you are hesitant and sensitive to the communities views and consequently this has also resulted in our defence forces actions being constraint to minimise risk. This in itself is problematic in taking on an enemy like ISIL.

I fear expansion of our actions into Syria will also be ineffective with no additional resourcing. The Air war really has not been that effective in containment.

Basically for the above reasons I have two views:

1/ Minimal engagement and a containment policy as is which maybe responsible for a refugee catastrophe which we are morally bound to help with

or

2/ all out (and lets get serious) action with a multi-nation coalition followed by a well planned UN civilian response with local tribal support to re-establish civil rule following an ISIL defeat, i.e. avoid Iraq 2 lessons.

Number 1/ I admit is half-hearted and maybe contributing to the Syrian problems.

However I will not support 2, unless it is multi-national, Russia, Iran and UN backed and is 'full on - gloves are off' with overwhelming force and includes removal of the Assad problem. That is do not constrain the military as politicians tend to do and make sure there is an 'after' plan as the military clearly is not good at.

Further I am tiring of Saudi Wahabism and funding that in effect is funding Sunni and ISIL extremism. When will Saudi Arabia be seen as feeding the problem and appropriate action is taken against this. In effect Saudi Arabia is an enemy and through its funding tentacles is also feeding extremism here. Saudi Arabia needs to be brought to account as well.

So the choice is continue containment or 'go for it and fix it - properly' including Saudi Arabia.

Given the reality and complexities I still prefer 1 but gee it would be good if 2 could be organised to get rid of this issue for good.

Regards
s 47F(1)

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 8 September 2015 2:37 PM
To: Bishop, Julie (MP)
Subject: No Bombs

Honorable Julie Bishop
Parliament House
Canberra.

Dear Ms Bishop

I have never in my life put pen to paper to write to a Member of the Federal Government, so this is a first. But my anguish in hearing, and seeing, in these days of instant news, of the plight of the millions of refugees has torn at my heart.

My husband and I (both in early 70s) while watching the news last week could not eat our dinner and collapsed into tears while watching the desperate struggle of these people walking on train tracks and then the terrible sight of baby Aylan being carried from the beach.

"There but for the Grace of God go I."

Many are saying we should do more to bring refugees to Australia and that ofcourse is a consideration.

What I wish to say is PLEASE DO NOT SEND BOMBS TO REIGN DOWN ON TO A RUINED COUNTRY!! WHAT POSSIBLE GOOD COULD THAT DO!! ONLY WASTE THE VALUABLE RESOURCE OF MONEY WHICH COULD GO TOWARD AID. PLEASE SEND MORE AID NOT BOMBS.

The UNHCR is running out of money.

I have just send my meagre \$200 and feel so powerless to not be able to send more.

No amount of bombs is going to change the minds of a wicked cult, and a wicked so called ruler of Syria who has no care for his people. Who is calling on him to talk to the world about what is being done and not?. Where is he?

Please BE WISE IN OUR HELP. I feel you are a very wise woman and trust you to make a good decision about the use of MY tax money!! NO BOMBS EVER!! ONLY AID!!

Yours very sincerely,

s 47F(1)

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2015 7:11 PM
To: Bishop, Julie (MP)
Subject: Australian involvement in Syria

Dear Julie Bishop,

I am sorry to hear that your Government is thinking about involving Australia in military strikes in Syria.

Over the years I have had very graphic, detailed conversations with friends, family and colleagues who have been in war, as soldiers, Air Force and civilians caught in the middle. It's fascinating stuff for someone like me who has had the privilege of growing up in a peaceful country in peaceful times.

These colleagues, friends and relatives of mine have all said that war was insane, terrible and pointless. They have been there and they know the reality. They have also said that they would do anything they could to prevent their own children getting involved in war.

So with the benefit of having heard their experiences, I'm asking you:

- Why would you want to involve our country in the misery and madness of war in Syria?
- How does joining us into that conflict serve our national interest?
- Or my interest as one of your constituents?
- What justifies you adding to the misery and madness of the Syrian conflict? Because more air strikes there will surely add to the human misery, not subtract from it.

Thank you for reading this.

I sincerely hope that you reconsider involving Australia any further in Syria. I think it is a bad idea.

Yours sincerely,

s 47F(1)

From: S 47F(1)
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2015 11:44 AM
To: Bishop, Julie (MP)
Subject: Syria

Minister for Foreign Affairs.

When the National Security Committee meets, we urge you to vote against using ADF aircraft to bomb Syria.

s 47F(1)

-----Original Message-----

From: s 47F(1)

Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2015 12:37 PM

To: Bishop, Julie (MP)

Subject: OPPOSITION TO AUSTRALIA COMMENCING BOMBING RAIDS IN SYRIA

From: s 47F(1)

Subject: OPPOSITION TO AUSTRALIA COMMENCING BOMBING RAIDS IN SYRIA

s 47F(1)

Message Body:

Hon Julie Bishop,

I fully concur with the former head of the ADF, retired General Peter Gration, in his opposition to Australia commencing bombing raids in Syria, this would be a disastrous decision

Please, I urge you to support this opposition.

I would be grateful of your support.

Kind regards,

s 47F(1)

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Hon Julie Bishop MP website

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 2 September 2015 8:01 PM
To: Bishop, Julie (MP)
Subject: Bombing in Syria

Dear Minister,

I would urge the government to give careful consideration to intended outcomes before embarking on airstrikes against IS in Syria. It is acknowledged by the US that their airstrikes have had no effect on halting IS. IS have committed unspeakable atrocities in Iraq and Syria, but will a few Australian missions make a significant difference.

The government statements do not demonstrate any understanding of the complexity of the the situations in the Middle East. When the PM recites a mantra about "the Death Cult" coming to get us he does not seem to have anything more insightful to add. It appears that the effective media campaign by IS to promote their progress and their atrocities provokes the desired reaction of fear and hatred in the west, when equally brutal players in the region are happy to fly below the radar.

The Assad government has killed 8 times the number of their civilian population citizens than IS or any of the other factions in the past 6 months. However there is no discussion about taking action against that regime. [<http://www.smh.com.au/world/you-are-all-responsible-for-our-death-declare-besieged-syrians-20150821-gj4gyg.html>] .

There are many strategists and authorities on the Middle East who can inform the debate. We must avoid the unintended consequences that we saw come out of the Iraq war which seems to have spawned IS. David Kilcullen's essay "Blood Year" explains a great deal about the rise of IS. Despite advice to the contrary from those that know, the USA, UK and Australia rushed headlong into a war with Iraq which has destabilised the whole region. Having a moral justification is simply not enough if it just becomes feel good exercise. The inevitable civilian casualties will likely radicalise more families against the west.

Since the government entered the next phase of the Iraq war last September I have been reading much about the complexity of that part of the world. The interventions of western governments over the past 40 years

have generally lead to unintended consequences and support for leaders who do not share our values to put it mildly.

I hope any decisions will take on board advice from expert analysts who can cut through the shallow slogans and justifications that the government has so far employed.

Regards,

s 47F(1)

From: s 47F(1)

Sent: Wednesday, 2 September 2015 7:47 PM

To: Bishop, Julie (MP)

Cc: Truss, Warren (MP); Hockey, Joe (MP); Barnaby Joyce; Robb, Andrew (MP); Morrison, Scott (MP); senator.bernardi@aph.gov.au; Pyne, Chris (MP); Turnbull, Malcolm (MP); Menzies Electorate (K. Andrews, MP); Prentice, Jane (MP)

Subject: Australia's Military Excursion into Syria

The Minister for Foreign Affairs

Hon Julie Bishop PM; Copy: The Prime Minister

2 September, 2015

Dear Minister

Re: **Australia's Military Excursion into Syria.**

I was concerned to hear you on the Andrew Bolt Report on 29 August promoting an extension of our military activities into Syria against ISIS. It is bad enough that we are active militarily in Iraq. Why should it be our job to stop ISIS in the Middle East? Why can't we mind our own business and worry about our own problems rather than some far-away war? Is it to support the ever widening US geo-political aspirations? If you plan to use Australian forces in Syria, it is also irrational that Australia still does not recognise the Syrian Government. Why are you not engaging with the Syrian Government to work to defeat what should be a common enemy? Or is it the ultimate aim to also destroy Assad and the Syrian Government?

As a matter of common sense, if we do not recognise the Government of Syria, why do we still have a strong relationship with the government of Saudi Arabia? I ask because there appears to be a stark contrast between the way we view Saudi Arabia, a country with an acknowledged failure of human rights, compared with the way we see the more liberal Syria. A few comparisons:

Syria is at least notionally a democracy and President Bashar al-Assad is an elected ruler. Saudi Arabia is an Islamic theocratic monarchy ruled by King Salman and advised by ruling princes and an unelected Council of Ministers who are appointed by Royal decree.

Syria has been embroiled in conflict since 2011 when Bashar al-Assad's regime violently suppressed an uprising by armed rebels. It is well known from reports in the international media that Saudi Arabia, with other Western Countries, was instrumental in arming and training these rebels with the expectation they would bring down the Assad Government and also attack Iraq. They are the ISIS rebels that we are ourselves now fighting and that contributed to the downfall of Gadhafi. We should be supporting the Syrian Government in their fight against ISIS, not isolating and ignoring them.

Recently, Khalid al-Asaad, the retired chief of antiquities for Palmyra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was killed by the rebels. Palmyra was supported by the Syrian government and housed many Pagan, Christian and Jewish relics. In contrast, in Saudi Arabia, archaeologists are cautioned not to even talk about pre-Islamic finds outside scholarly literature. Saudi Arabia bans public displays of crosses and churches.

Saudi Arabia is controlled by Sharia Law, which is applied more strictly than in any other Muslim country. It has zero tolerance for religions other than Islam, and non-Muslims are not allowed to hold Saudi citizenship. Religious freedom in Saudi Arabia is virtually non-existent.

In Syria, on the other hand, reportedly 12 per cent of the population are or were Christian with Christian Churches, and there has been a small Jewish population. Escalating the war in Syria will devastate the country as Iraq and Libya were devastated. Is that what you want?

The Secretary-General of Amnesty International Canada says Saudi Arabia, under their strict Sharia Law, is executing an average of one person every two days after convicting them in grossly unfair trials.

Despite all this we recognise Saudi Arabia and do not recognise Syria. There is far more reason to recognise the Syrian Government than the Saudi Government.

Your plan to bomb Syria will further devastate the country as Libya and Iraq were devastated. Justifying this with the contrived term "Collective self-defence" is meaningless since the military turmoil in the Middle East is not directly threatening Australia. Wide demonstrations have been held across Japan calling on the Government to rescind new collective self-defense laws there. Are the Japanese smarter than we are?

The wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya have been hugely costly in lives and money and have done nothing to improve Australia's security. We should confine our security activities to defending Australia in Australia.

If you want to protect Australian citizens from harm, advocate doing something about the reported 18,000 deaths a year in Australia from medical malpractice, but get out of the Middle East.

Yours faithfully

s 47F(1)

From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2015 1:15 PM
To: Bishop, Julie (MP)
Subject: NO BOMBING OF SYRIA

Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition

PO Box A899
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235
499 Elizabeth Street
SUNRISE HILLS NSW 2076
Phone/fax (02) 9698 5617
Email: info@anti-bases.org
Website www.anti-bases.org

October 2010



To: The Hon Tony Abbott MP and the National Security Committee

Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2061

Monday, August 31, 2015

Dear FOREIGN Minister,

Do not allow Australian forces to bomb Syria

We urge you not to extend the bombing by Australian forces to Syria on the grounds of a common humanity which abhors indiscriminate bombing of civilians and armed militias. There is no moral reason for such bombing and all it will achieve is the intensification of the misery of the Syrian people. Your recent simple sentence "they (ISIS) do not respect borders so why should we" smacks of primary school boy morality and not the mature response of a national leader and statesman.

Beyond the issue of morality, there are real hard-nosed reasons why you should not bomb Syria.

1. It would be an extension of armed military excursions into a sovereign state which are illegal under international conventions. We could find ourselves prosecuted at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. We are signatories to that court but the US is not.
2. We will put ourselves at odds with our near neighbours Indonesia and Malaysia which are predominantly Muslim countries while we appear to be anti-Muslim or Islamophobic. They may retaliate by trade sanctions or non-compliance on regional issues with Australia and so on. We are being belligerent against our own interests.
3. It will undermine our international reputation for fairness and humanity which at some time has been as high as Norway's reputation for peace building and humanity.
4. Your government found half a billion dollars for the bombing of Iraq at a time when the Australian people were told to pull their belts in because there was no money left for necessary programs "always money for war, never for bread". Any deployment to Syria would also be massively costly in terms of treasure and putting Australian lives in harm's way. We paid the last of the WW1 widows in 2010. We were still paying for that war nearly 100 years after it finished and now we will be paying the Middle East casualties for many decades to come.
5. ISIS has had some tacit and in some cases active support from states including the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Turkey. Now we find ourselves mixed up in their sectarian and conflicting national interests. There will be no benefit to Australia, only pain.
6. US interventions in Iraq starting many decades ago that saw the rise of Saddam Hussein to the present have failed. We see a country in chaos and ruins. His history should lead an astute leader to be cautious about accepting a request from them to participate in the war on Syria. We call on you to be more a statesman and less subservient to another country's interests.
7. As noted by Malcolm Fraser, former Liberal Prime Minister and Minister for the Army during the Vietnam War, the big empires we have aligned ourselves with -- Britain and the United States -- have lied to us to get us into their wars. This is another example. We call on you to be an

independent Prime Minister looking after the interests of the Australian people, not those of US corporations.

Finally we wish to point out what you could do about the influence of IS and Syria.

1. In relation to IS, Islamic communities in Australia have been calling out for funding for counter extremism education programs yet this money has not arrived. Instead major funding has gone to invade the privacy of Australian citizens and on the police and secret services. Community education and the promotion of tolerance would be more effective than bombing IS in Syria.
2. Act as an honest broker in the Middle East. Close the borders to all foreign fighters regardless of side and stop all arms shipments to Syria. Work with the U.S, Russia and China to resolve the issues in Syria diplomatically rather than making them worse by joining the US bombardment. Look for countries in the UN who will sponsor a ceasefire. Call for peace. Call for an end to flow of Syrian refugees too many of whom are dying as they flee towards Europe or Australia.

We call on you to be statesman not a warmonger who will bring more terrorism down on our shoulders. Say no to the bombing of Syria.

Yours sincerely

s 47F(1)

s 47F(1)

For the Anti-Bases Campaign

cc: The Hon Warren Truss MP, The Hon Julie Bishop MP, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, The Hon Joe Hockey MP, The Hon. Kevin Andrews MP, The Hon Peter Dutton MP, Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann, The Hon. Bill Shorten, The Hon. Tanya Plibersek

-----Original Message-----

From: s 47F(1)

Sent: Monday, 31 August 2015 7:58 AM

To: Bishop, Julie (MP)

Subject: Bombing Syria

Rather than operating bombing raids on Syria to save the people, let Australia save some of the Syrians now through a rescue program of the victims. Millions of people are fleeing the violence seeking refuge and a future. Australia took in refugees after the Second World War - we should do it again. Humanitarian response. Not more bombs!

s 47F(1)

